ウロボロス
ouroboros
警察ヲ裁クハ我ニアリ
11
Yûya Kanzaki
神崎裕也

DESIGN: TAKEUCHI RYOSUKE

ウロボロス

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BUNCH COMICS

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Yuya Kanzaki

新潮社

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極秘捜査を進めるイクオと竜哉の前に立ち塞がったのは公安警察“ゼロ”。異常に頭の切れる男・忍足と破壊的な暴力の持ち主・我那覇…手段を選ばない凶悪な二人の刑事に捜査中強襲され絶体絶命の危機。二匹の龍とゼロの直接対決の幕が上がる！

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BUNCH COMICS

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神崎裕也
Yuya Kanzaki

新潮社

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新潮社

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Yûya Kanzaki

Name: Hibino Miduki
Affiliation: Tōkyō MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division
Rank: Assistant Inspector

Name: Danno Tatsuya
Affiliation: Danno Family (first-rank branch, Abiko Group)
Title: Family Leader

Name: Ryūzaki Ikuo
Affiliation: Tōkyō MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division
Rank: Sergeant

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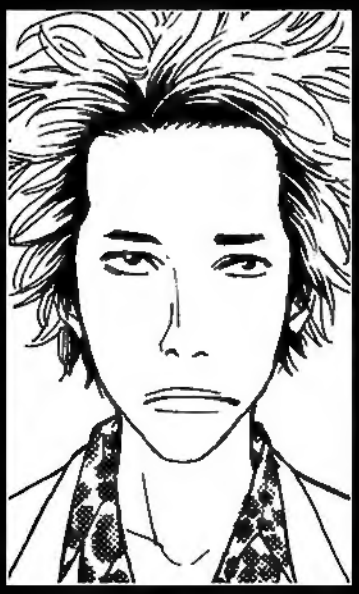
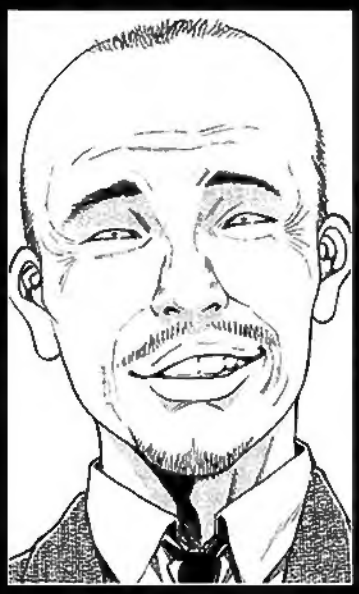


Name: Yamashirō Hayato
Affiliation: Yamashirō Syndicate
Title: Heir of the Boss and member of the leadership



Name: Mishima Kaoru
Affiliation: Shinjuku Second Division, Criminal Investigation Section
Rank: Inspector
Position: Section Chief

Name: Bandō Shirō
Affiliation: Tōkyō MPD Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division
Rank: Inspector

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CAST & STORY

Name: Gold Watch
No data

Name: Oshitari Kōji
Affiliation: National Police Agency Security Bureau, Security Planning Division (Zero)
Rank: Superintendent

Name: Mamoru Ganaha
Affiliation: National Police Agency Security Bureau, Security Planning Division (Zero)
Rank: Superintendent

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STORY

Ryūzaki Ikuo and Danno Tatsuya carry the burden of a past in which their most beloved person, Yuiko-sensei, was murdered and the crime was covered up by the police. Fifteen years passed... in order to uncover the secret behind the case, and the identity of the "man with the gold watch" who orchestrated the cover-up, Ikuo became a detective and Tatsuya joined the yakuza.

Having been transferred from Shinjuku's Second Division to the MPD Headquarters Criminal Investigation Bureau, First Division, the misfit duo Ikuo and Hibino Miduki, under the guidance of their new chiefs, Inspector Bandō and Superintendent Tachibana, pass their days dealing with cases and professional chores. Meanwhile, within the MPD, the atmosphere becomes tense as a power dispute unfolds between the "Superintendent General" and "Deputy Superintendent General" factions.

Meanwhile, the "twin dragons", Ikuo and Tatsuya, pursue the connection between the "Zero" division of Public Safety and "Gold Watch", and come closer to obtaining information about his identity in the upper echelons of the MPD. Their struggle becomes ever more trying!

His resourcefulness in running an organisation and exceptional ability to make money are acknowledged and Danno is elevated to Family Leader of the new direct follower organisation of the Abiko Group, the Danno Family, an unprecedented career advancement in the world of organised crime. The de facto power holder of the Abiko Group and wife of the Leader, Abiko Kirino, is a member of the "Gold Watch Organisation" and this brings Danno one step closer to "Gold Watch".

At that moment, it is announced that the perpetrator of MPD Superintendent-General Kitagawa's sniping is the Yamashirō Syndicate. Its leader, Yamashirō Shigeyoshi, and the rest of the leadership of the syndicate commit suicide and the suicide note they leave reveals their responsibility for the crime. Ikuo and Tatsuya identify the hand of "Zero" in the particulars of these events and begin to seek out the beloved only son of the Leader, Yamashirō Hayato, whose whereabouts are unknown...

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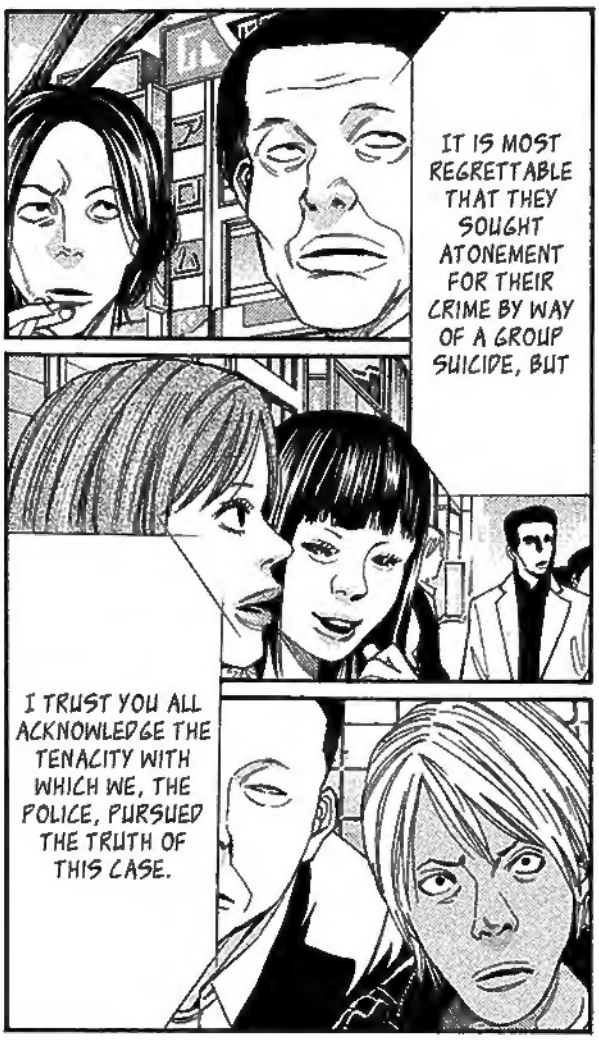
第76話

CHAPTER 76: INVOLVEMENT

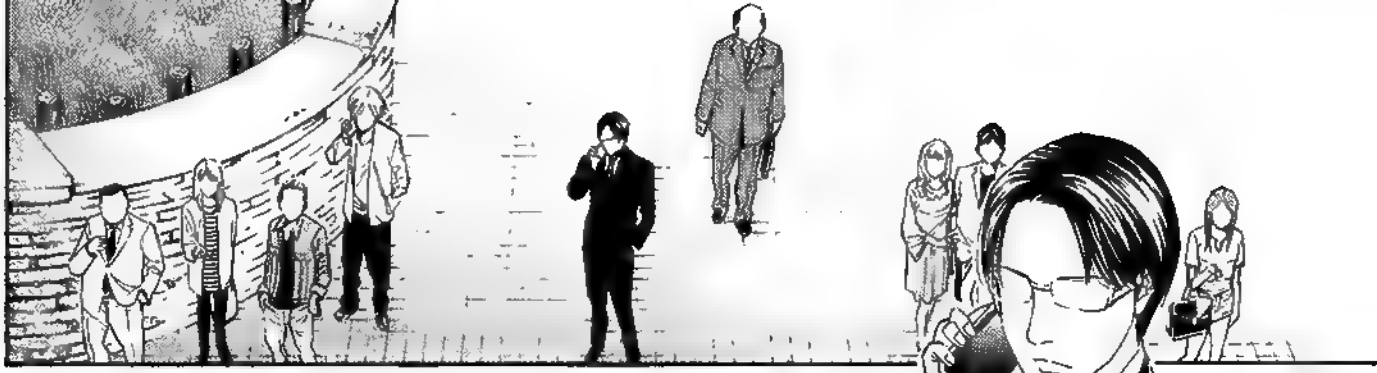
FIVE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL KITAGAWA WAS SNIPED.
ALTHOUGH HIS LIFE IS NOT IN DANGER, SUPER-INTENDENT-GENERAL KITAGAWA IS STILL BEDRIDDEN.


IT IS MOST REGRETTABLE THAT THEY SOUGHT ATONEMENT FOR THEIR CRIME BY WAY OF A GROUP SUICIDE, BUT
I TRUST YOU ALL ACKNOWLEDGE THE TENACITY WITH WHICH WE, THE POLICE, PURSUED THE TRUTH OF THIS CASE.

THE PERPETRATORS, WHOM I FEEL COMPELLED TO LIKEN TO TERRORISTS, ARE FROM A BROAD-AREA DESIGNATED CRIME SYNDICATE...
THE LEADER OF THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE AND EIGHT MEMBERS OF HIS ORGANI-SATION.

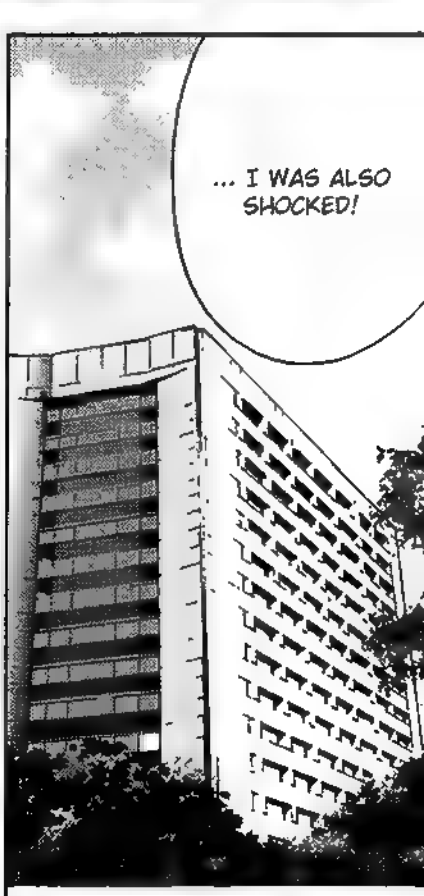
THE "SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL SNIPING CASE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE", HEADED BY THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FIRST DIVISION CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BUREAU AND WHICH SPEARHEADED THE INVESTIGATION THUS FAR, IS HEREBY DISBANDED... FURTHERMORE,

IN THE NEAR FUTURE, THE LESSONS FROM THIS CASE WILL BE USED TO FURTHER OUR CONTINUOUS GOAL OF REFORMING OURSELVES INTO A STRONGER POLICE FORCE.

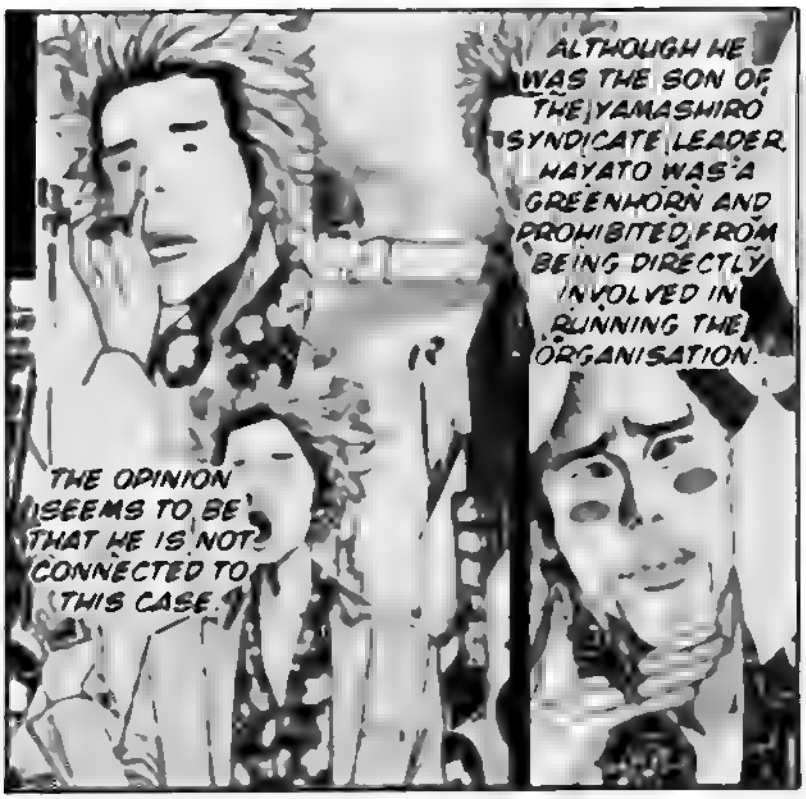


... WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THAT, IKUO?

THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATION TASK FORCE... WHAT IS WITH THAT SUDDEN DISSOLUTION!


... I WAS ALSO SHOCKED!

TO PRESERVE THE HONOUR OF THE POLICE
AS FOR THE GOALS OF CENTRAL HEADQUARTERS IT SEEMS THEY WANT TO BE DONE WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL'S SHOOTING CASE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

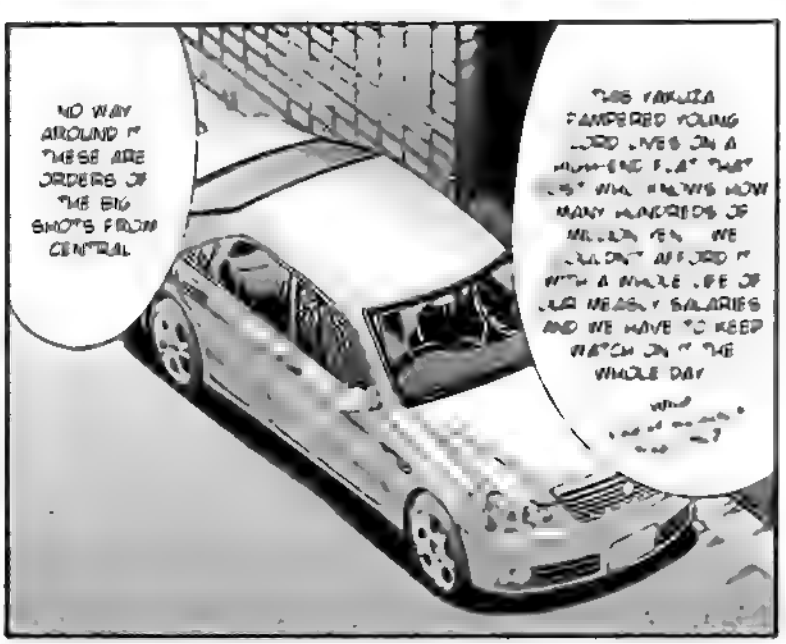

ALTHOUGH HE WAS THE SON OF THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE LEADER, HAYATO WAS A GREENHORN AND PROHIBITED FROM BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN RUNNING THE ORGANISATION.
THE OPINION SEEMS TO BE THAT HE IS NOT CONNECTED TO THIS CASE.

IF THE SPECIAL TASK FORCE IS NO MORE WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE SEARCH FOR YAMASHIRO HAYATO?
THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING IT WILL BE DELEGATED TO THE LOCAL JURISDICTION

THIS IS BAD
.....

THERE IS NO WAY SOMEONE LIKE HAYATO CAN ESCAPE FROM THEM.
ALTHOUGH "ZERO" ARE POLICE OFFICERS, THEY ARE UNDERWORLD PROFESSIONALS WHO KILLED THE SEASONED VETERANS OF THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE.
.....?
.....
WHAT CAN WE DO, TAT-CHAN!?
THAT... EVEN IF HE IS A YAKUZA, JUST ABANDONING HIM TO HIS FATE...
ER... WHA!?
NO... NO WAY, TAT-CHAN, YOU AREN'T GOING TO...!?
... IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
NOW THAT THINGS HAVE COME TO THIS, I HAVE NO CHOICE OTHER THAN TO INVESTIGATE THE MATTER MYSELF, DO I?

TAP TAP
CENTRAL CAN GO TO HELL FOR ALL I CARE! "SIR"


NO WAY AROUND IT THESE ARE ORDERS OF THE BIG SHOTS FROM CENTRAL
THIS YAKUZA PAMPERED YOUNG LORD LIVES IN A HUNDRED FLAT THAT HE'S NOT EVEN KNOWS HOW MANY HUNDREDS OF MILLION YEN WE SHOULDN'T AFFORD IT WITH A WHOLE LIFE OF OUR MEAGRE SALARIES AND WE HAVE TO KEEP WATCH ON IT THE WHOLE DAY

WE'RE NOT PARKING ON THE STREET OR ANYTHING, THERE IS AN INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY.
HUH?

SFX slide

AH... WE'RE FROM CENTRAL.

AH... NO, THAT..
RIGHT NOW, YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT CENTRAL.. WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
WE'RE GOING TO KEEP WATCH FROM NOW ON, SO IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO GO HOME NOW.
INCIDENTALLY, SINCE THESE ARE ORDERS FROM CENTRAL, THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO REPORT TO YOUR SUPERIORS
FROM...
FROM CENTRAL!?
.....
THAN... THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!
... TAT-CHAN JUST WANTS TO PLAY POLICE OFFICERS A LITTLE, DOESN'T HE?
NOW, THEN... HOW ABOUT WE INVESTIGATE HAYATO'S PLACE, IKUO?

... HEY, IKUO, HAVE YOU FOUND ANY CLUES?
... NO, NOTHING AT ALL
WELL I HAVE BEEN THINKING
IF HE HAS ENOUGH MONEY TO LIVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, I WONDER WHETHER HE WOULDN'T HAVE FLED SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY
I DON'T THINK SO
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT
LOOK HARDER. ARE YOU A COP OR WHAT?

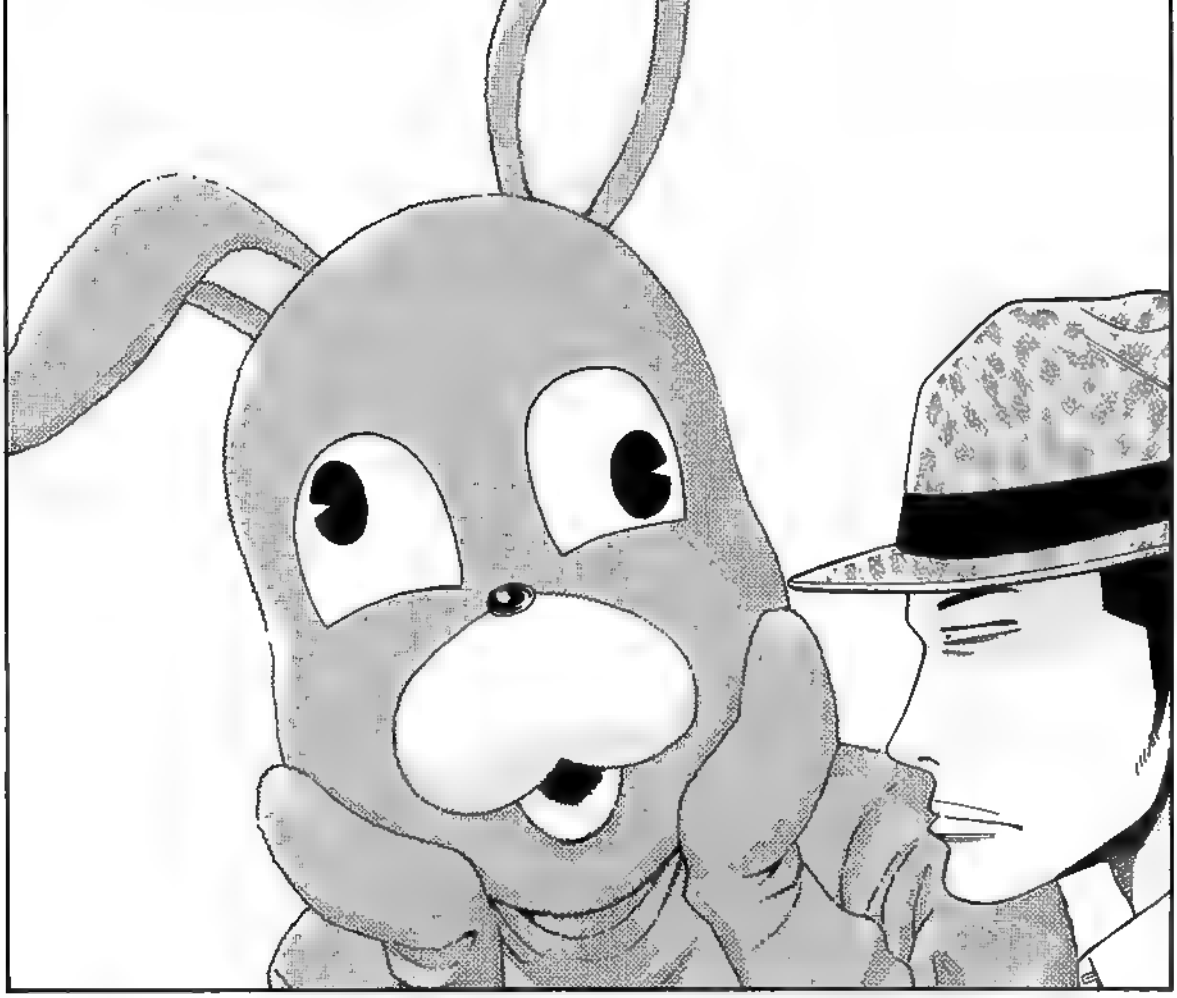
I THOUGHT HE HAD RUN SOMEWHERE FAR, BUT... UNEXPECTEDLY, HE IS HIDING IN A PLACE HE IS FAMILIAR WITH.
A PERSON WHO FLEES BECOMES PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY DEBILITATED.
WHILE HE MAY BE AFRAID OF HIS PURSUERS, I SIMPLY CANNOT FATHOM HIS HAVING THE WILLPOWER OR THE GUTS TO GO LIVE ALONE IN A PLACE HE DOESN'T KNOW.
BESIDES, HAYATO CANNOT DO ANYTHING UNLESS HIS FATHER IS AROUND... THE IDIOT HAS A FATHER COMPLEX.
WHAT IS THAT FELLOW THINKING?
NOW HE HAS LOST THAT FATHER.
. FOR A BRAT LIKE HAYATO, HIS FATHER IS EVERYTHING...
!
SFX. flip

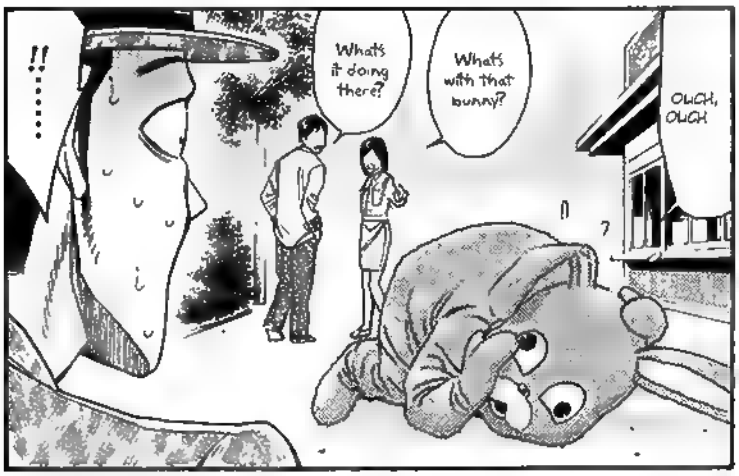
A TICKET STUB FOR AN AMUSEMENT PARK IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA?
THIS IS...
Tōkyō Cosmoland
FREE PASS TICKET
VALID FOR THE PURCHASE DAY ONLY
¥5000-
18:00 onwards
Starlight parade
WHY IS HE KEEPING SUCH A THING IN AN ALBUM AS IF IT WERE IMPORTANT?
THE DATE IS FROM TEN YEARS AGO...
01 · 8 20
Tōkyō Cosmoland
FREE PASS TICKET
VALID FOR THE PURCHASE DAY ONLY
¥5000-
0524825
18:00 onwards
Starlight parade
.....
?
WHAT'S UP, TAT-CHAN...

ゴォ
SFX: rumbling and shaking noises
ゴゴゴゴ
OOH, AWE-SOME!
KYAA!

SFX: whoosh
SFX: music
CLUTE!
LET'S RIDE THAT!
Okay?
SFX: jingle jingle, clank clank
.....

HAAAH
Papa, faster!
Hey, I can't see like that!
HAAAAAH
SFX: shuffle, tumble




!!
What's it doing there?
What's with that bunny?
OUCH, OUCH

SFX: thump!
GYAA AAH!!

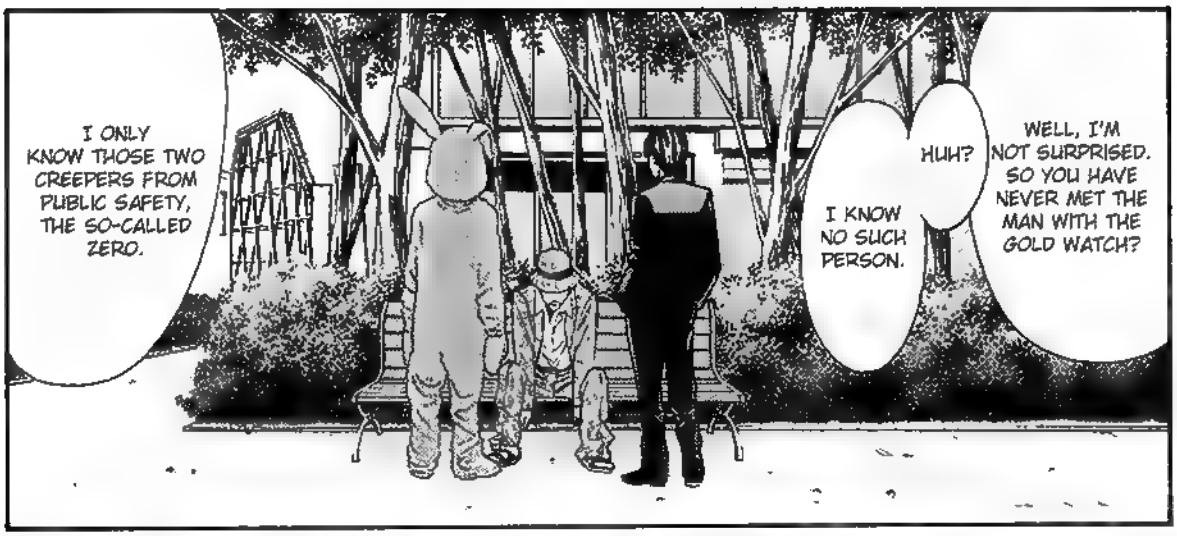
EXCUSE ME...
DON'T SCARE PEOPLE LIKE THAT...
Y-YOU BAS-TARD!

SFX: thrust

SFX: rustle

SFX: step

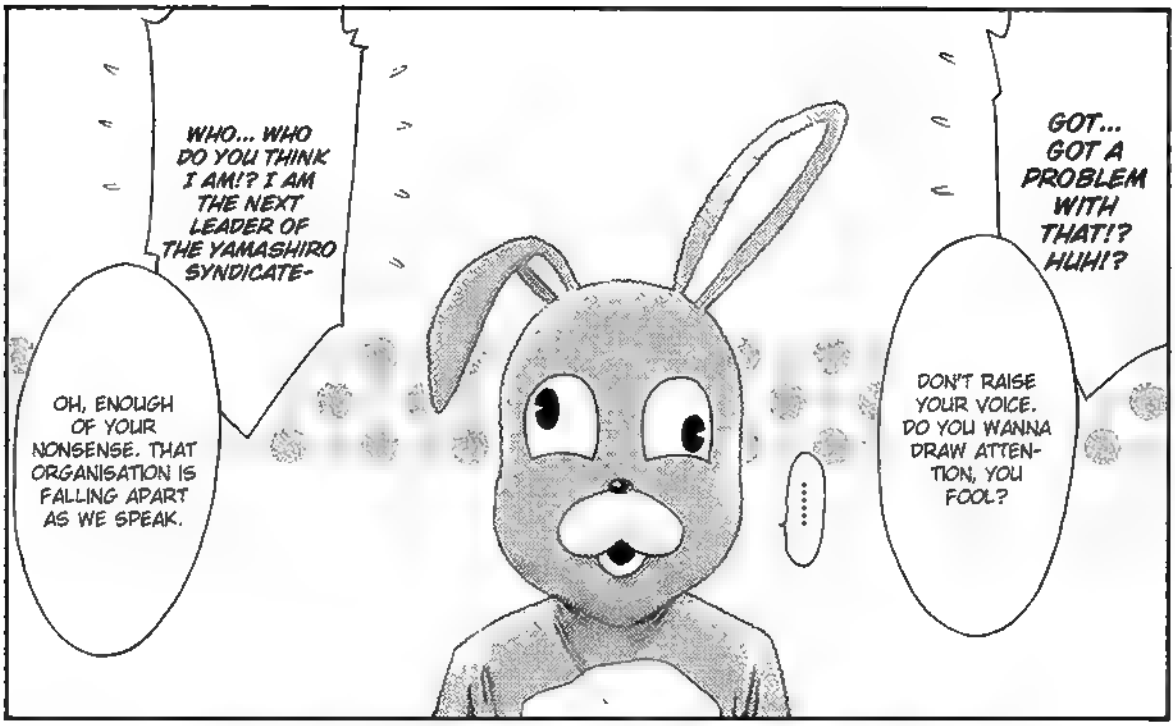
I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY.
RELAX.
Me neither me neither.
SFX: wind blowing
... I SEE.
SFX. clank
ゴォォ


I ONLY KNOW THOSE TWO CREEPERS FROM PUBLIC SAFETY, THE SO-CALLED ZERO.
I KNOW NO SUCH PERSON.
HUH?
WELL, I'M NOT SURPRISED. SO YOU HAVE NEVER MET THE MAN WITH THE GOLD WATCH?

AND GANAHA.
THE TWO, OSHITARI

YOU SEEMED TO BE HAVING A JOLLY GOOD TIME AT THE REAR SALON, TOO.
YOU ARE ONE TO TALK.
!!
HOW do YOU know...
!!
SFX: jolt!

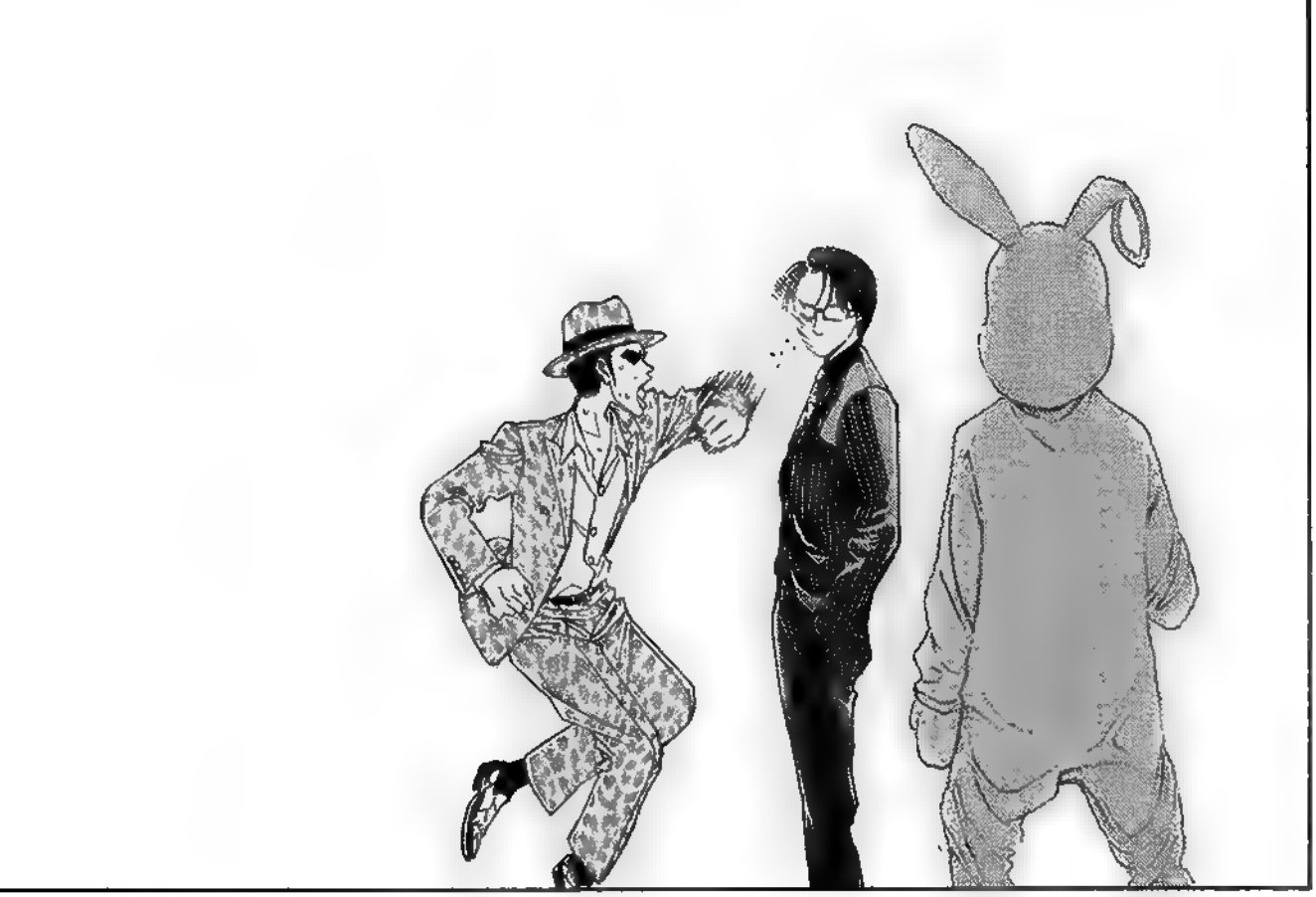
I ALSO TOLD THE OLD MAN, COUNTLESS TIMES, THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE LIKES OF THOSE GUYS...
FROM THE MOMENT I MET THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME I THOUGHT THEY LOOKED SUSPICIOUS...
SFX: clench..

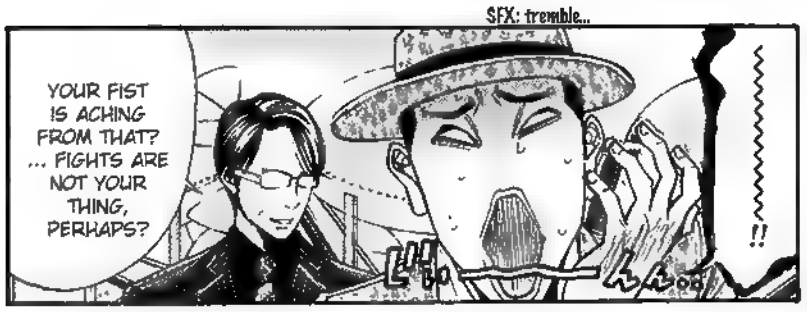

WHO... WHO DO YOU THINK I AM!? I AM THE NEXT LEADER OF THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE-
OH, ENOUGH OF YOUR NONSENSE. THAT ORGANISATION IS FALLING APART AS WE SPEAK.
GOT... GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT!? HUH!?
DON'T RAISE YOUR VOICE. DO YOU WANNA DRAW ATTENTION, YOU FOOL?

YOU... FUCKER... WHAT
!!

THEY WERE INSTIGATED BY ZERO INTO SNIPING THE SUPERINTENDENT-GENERAL AND THEN MURDERED TO TAKE THE INFORMATION TO THEIR GRAVES.
ALL IN ALL, BOTH OF YOU, FATHER AND CHILD, ARE JUST A PAIR OF YAKUZA DUPES, AREN'T YOU?

DID YOU JUST SAY!?




SFX: tremble...
YOUR FIST IS ACHING FROM THAT? ... FIGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THING, PERHAPS?
!!

SFX: fidget fidget
! TAT... TAT-CHAN...
あた
あた

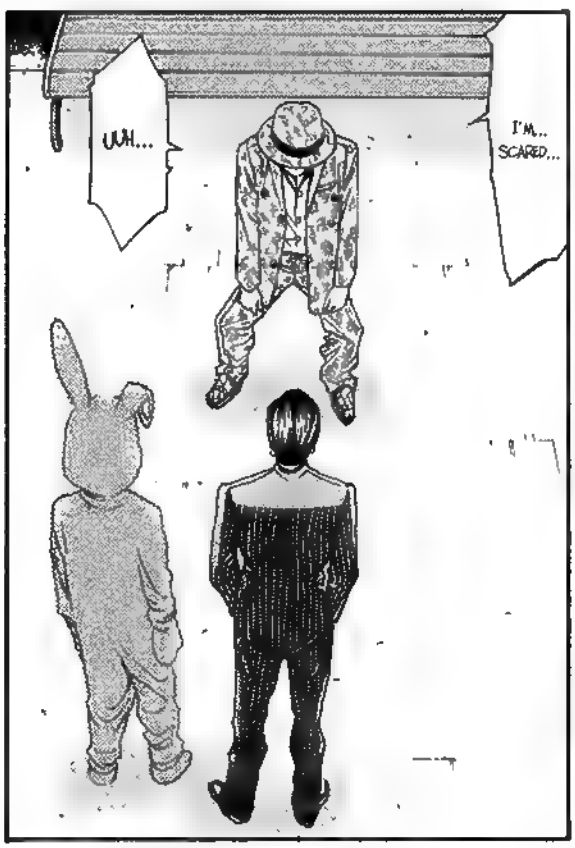
SFX: grrr!
BAS-TARD...
あっ

SFX: chuckle
YOU LAID-BACK YAKUZA.
ALWAYS PROTECTED BY DADDY, I SEE...

!!
!!!

SFX: jolt!

UH...
UGH...


UH...
I'M... SCARED...

YOUR FATHER'S FOES... DON'T YOU WANT TO GET BACK AT THEM?

I HAD DECIDED TO GET REVENGE, BUT...!!
I...
SFX: rumble!
ゴォォ...
KYAA...
THIS AMUSEMENT PARK...
DAD BROUGHT ME HERE, JUST ONCE, WHEN I WAS A BRAT.

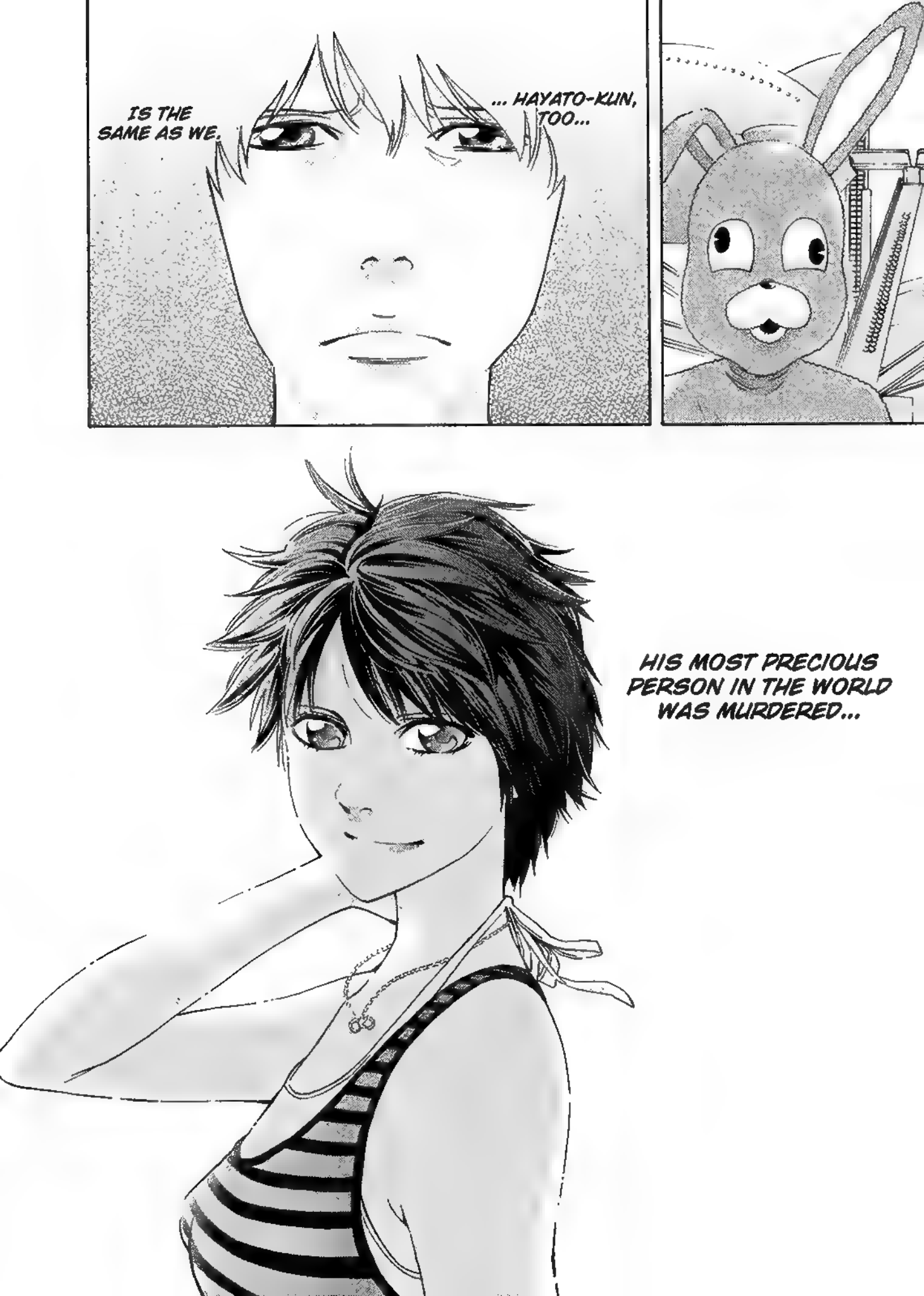
AND AVOID HAVING ANYTHING TO DO WITH YOU...
THERE ARE THE ONES WHO LOOK AT YOU AS IF YOU WERE A SCARY MONSTER.
THERE ARE THE ONES WHO INGRATIATE THEMSELVES WITH YOU.
AND THEN
THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS PEOPLE REACT TO HAVING THE SON OF A YAKUZA IN THEIR MIDST.
TWO WAYS...
I WOULD JUST GET AS MUCH MONEY I WANTED TO ENJOY MYSELF.
EVEN THOUGH THE OLD MAN HAD BUILT A HUGE ORGANISATION, HE HARDLY EVER SHOWED UP TO PLAY WITH ME.
THE RULING OVERLORD OF THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE, FEARED BY SOCIETY, BROUGHT HIS BRAT TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK...
SO, JUST ONCE... HE BROUGHT ME TO THIS AMUSEMENT PARK.
SFX: sob
HOWEVER, THE OLD MAN ALSO FELT BAD ABOUT THAT, AS ONE WOULD EXPECT.

"HEY, PAPA, WHY ARE YOU WEARING LONG-SLEEVED CLOTHES EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO HOT?"
"HM? AH, WELL... I'M JUST SENSITIVE TO COLD... HAHA..."

... LET'S COME TO THE AMUSEMENT PARK AGAIN,

HAYATO.

DIDN'T YOU SAY... WE WOULD COME HERE... AGAIN?
OLD MAAAN!!
YOU WERE LYING TO ME... OLD MAN... DAMN YOU...
SHIT...
WHY...


IS THE SAME AS WE.
... HAYATO-KUN, TOO...
HIS MOST PRECIOUS PERSON IN THE WORLD WAS MURDERED...

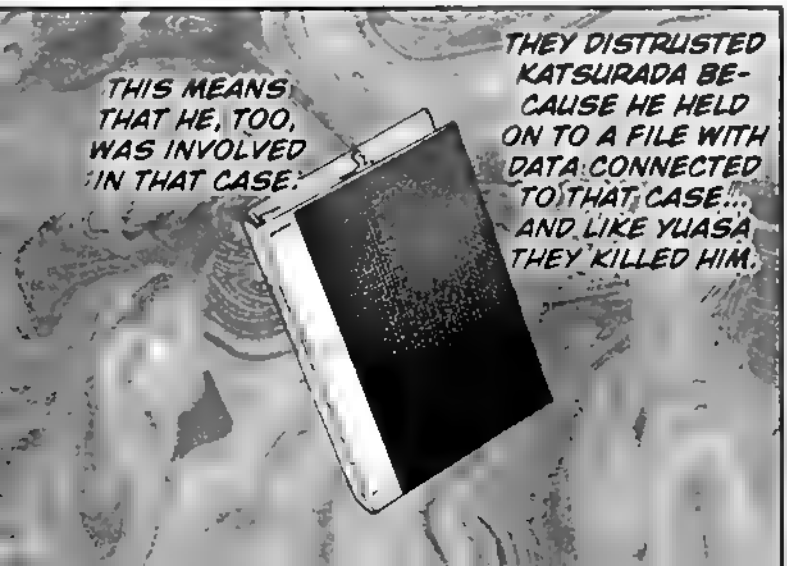
YOU... WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU GUYS!?
G-GET BACK AT HIS FOES!? WHAT ARE YOU SAYING..
WE WILL GET BACK AT YOUR FATHER'S FOES, WITHOUT FAIL!
AH... DON'T WORRY, HAYATO-KUN!
WE TOO JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS WITH THOSE TWO PEOPLE FROM ZERO.
DON'T MISUN-DERSTAND. WE'RE NOT GOING TO DO IT FOR YOUR SAKE.
?
WE WANT TO MEET THEM AND CONFIRM A FEW THINGS, TOO.
WE'RE GOING TO SETTLE ACCOUNTS WITH THEM.

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO... AN ACQUAINTANCE OF OURS WAS MURDERED BY FOUR PEOPLE... IF OUR READING OF IT IS CORRECT,
OSHITARI AND GANAHA WERE AMONG THE PERPETRATORS.

T-TAT-CHAN, ARE YOU SAYING...
THOSE FOUR PEOPLE WERE FROM PUBLIC SAFETY!? HUH!?
IT'S JUST A CONJECTURE, BUT... THE PROBABILITY IS HIGH.
?

AND THEN, ONE OF THE REMAINING TWO WOULD BE THE HOMELESS MAN, YUASA,

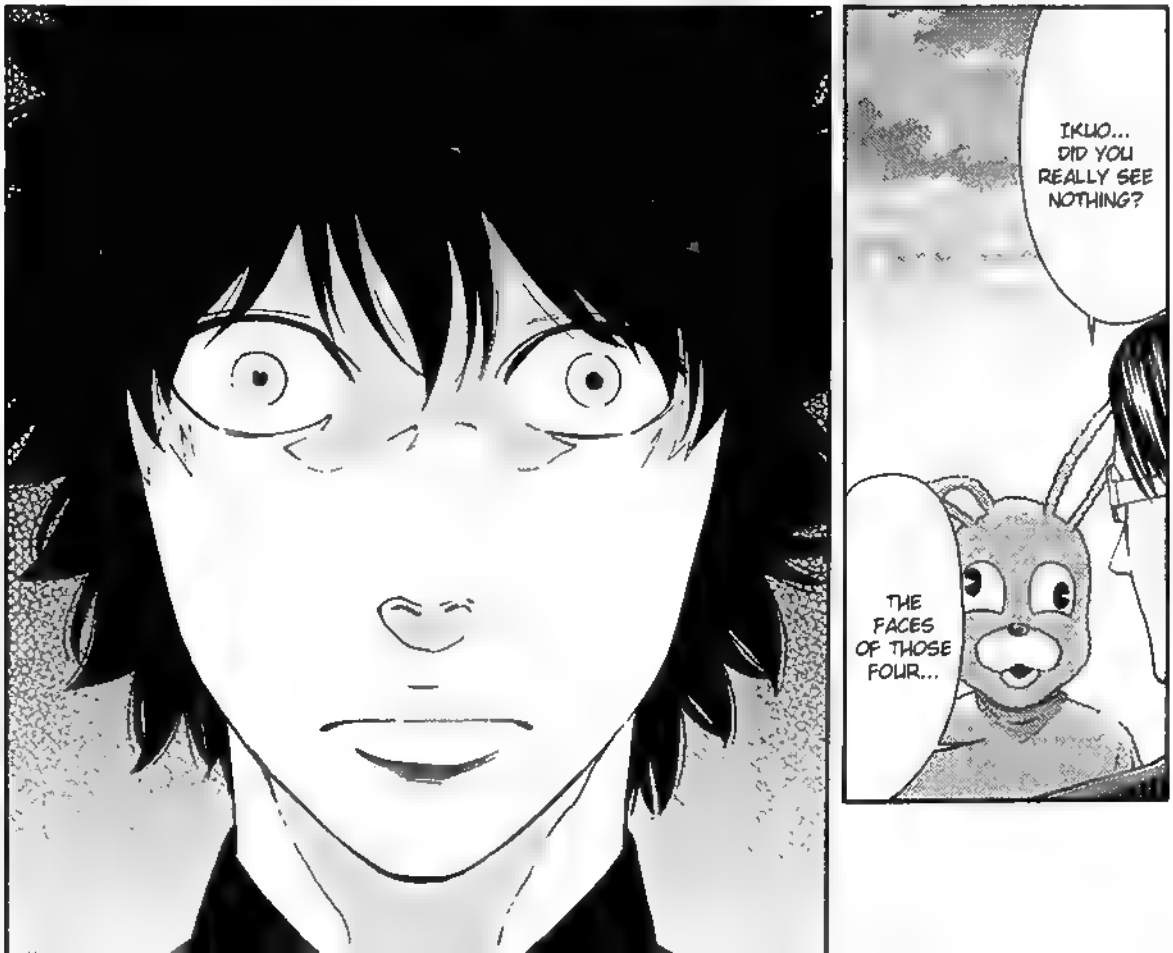
AND THE PRESIDENT OF "ARCANA HEALTH & BEAUTY", KATSURADA.


THIS MEANS THAT HE, TOO, WAS INVOLVED IN THAT CASE.
THEY DISTRUSTED KATSURADA BECAUSE HE HELD ON TO A FILE WITH DATA CONNECTED TO THAT CASE... AND LIKE YUASA THEY KILLED HIM.

EH?

THAT FELLOW KNEW ABOUT US, YUIKO-SENSEI, AND "MAHOROBA".
ARE YOU, BASTARD, BY ANY CHANCE, ALSO ONE OF THE BRATS BROUGHT UP BY YUIKO KASHIWABA?
BESIDES, THERE ARE THOSE WORDS FROM OSHITARI...

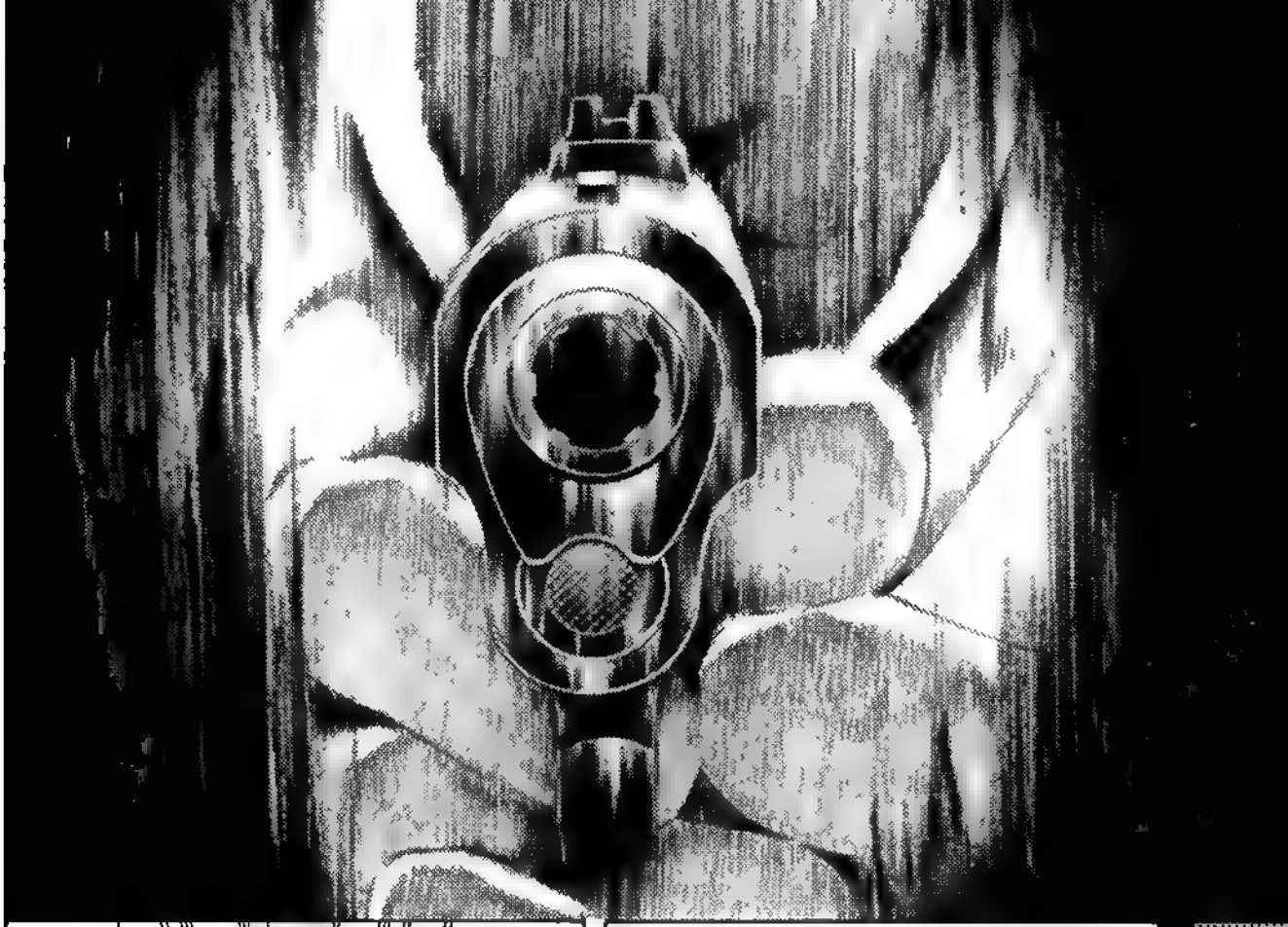
THERE WAS YUIKO-SENSEI, FALLEN TO THE GROUND AND COVERED IN BLOOD... AND YOU, IKUO, ALONE STANDING THERE.
IN THAT CASE FROM SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, I SAW A GROUP OF FOUR PEOPLE RUNNING AWAY AS FAST AS THEY COULD.


IKUO... DID YOU REALLY SEE NOTHING?
THE FACES OF THOSE FOUR...

ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン
ドクン

BA-
DUMP

!
UGH... UH...
AH... AAAH...
SFX: throb
SFX: gnnn...
A...AGAIN, MEMORIES FROM THAT TIME!?
MY HEAD IS SPLITTING...
H-HEY, WHAT'S UP WITH HIM? IT LOOKS SERIOUS...
NO WAY... ANOTHER OF THOSE FITS!?
IKUO!?



HEY IS IT OKAY TO ADDRESS THIS ONE AS A PERSON...
HEY! IKUO, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

!?

I'M... ALL RIGHT NOW... TAT-CHAN...
I... I'M OKAY...

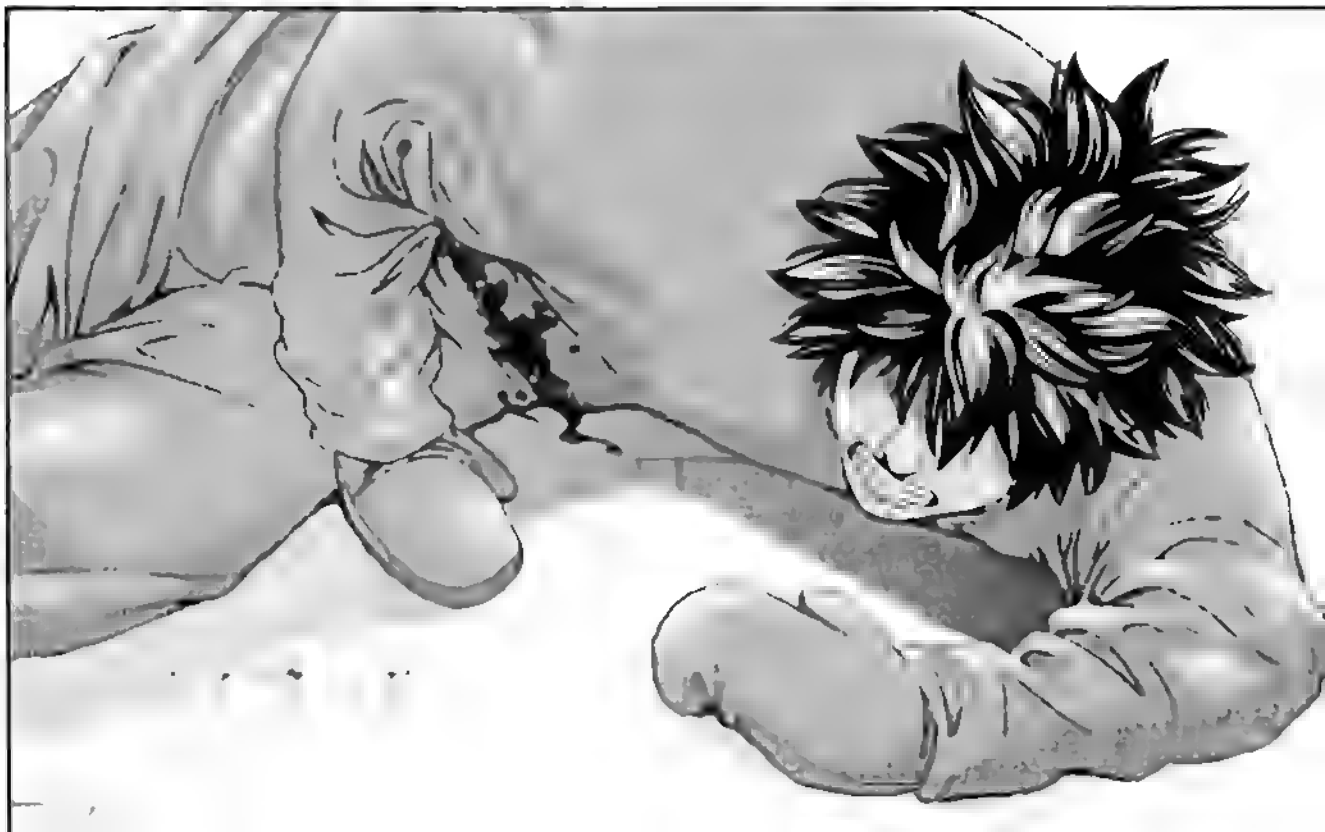
TS/N: Wrong time and wrong guy to go all tsun-tsun on.

SFX. DIZZY

SFX. bump!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, BASTARD!?
WHAT WAS THAT?
!

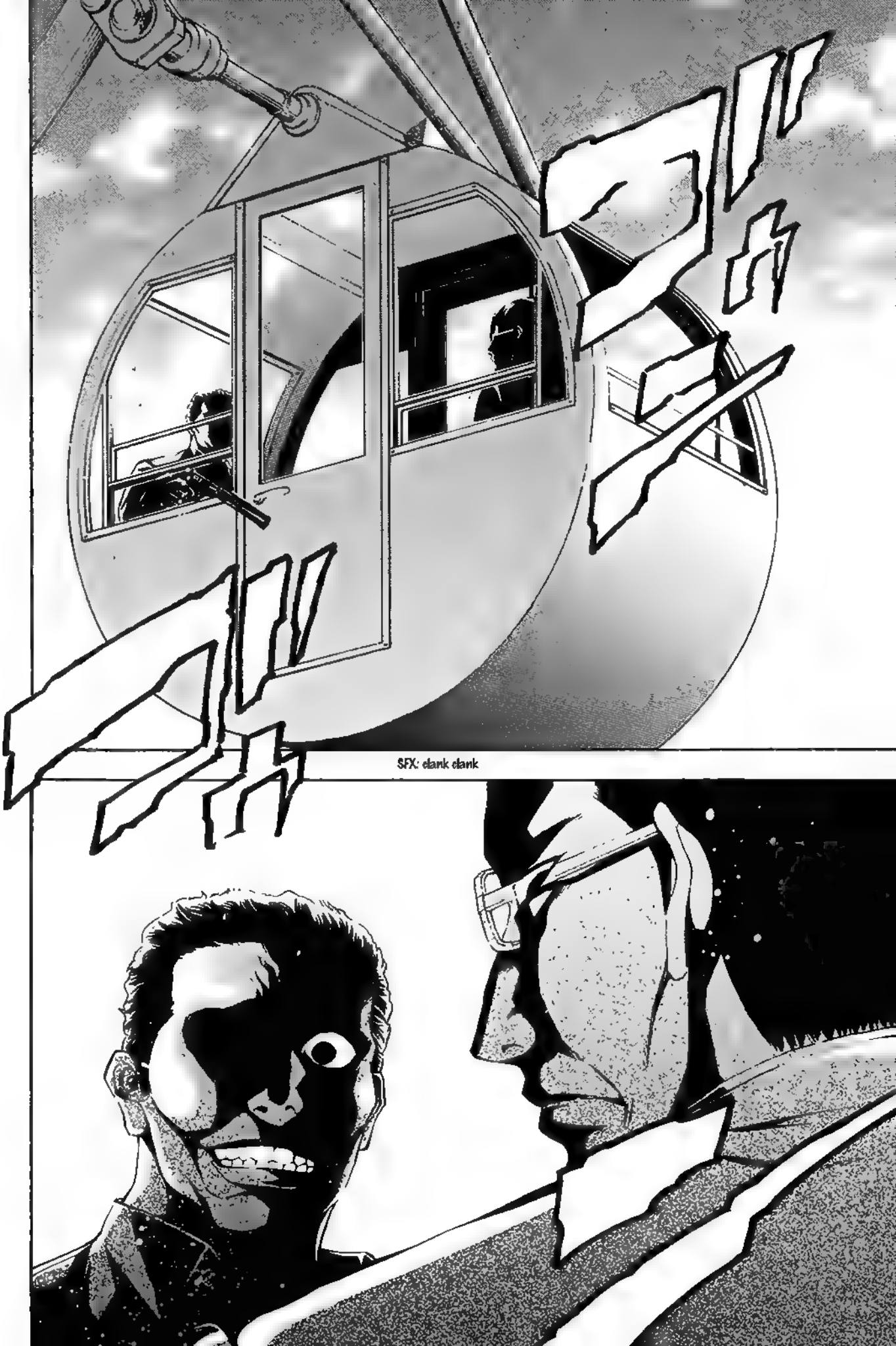
TRICKLE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, IKUO?



IT'S THOSE GUYS!!
T-TAT-CHAN, TAKE HAYATO-KUN... AND ESCAPE...
SFX: turn!
IKUO WAS SHOT!?
!!
WHERE THE HELL...

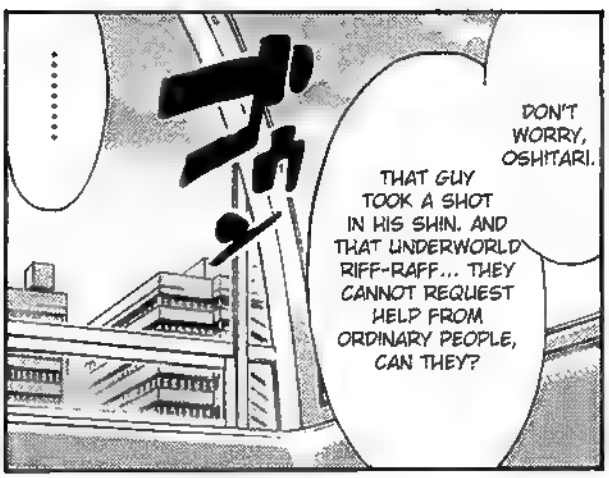
SFX: clunk...

SFX: (grunt)

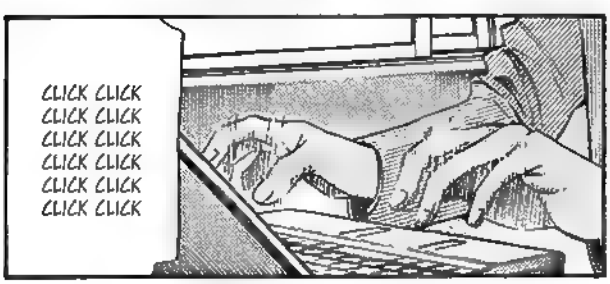

SFX: clank clank

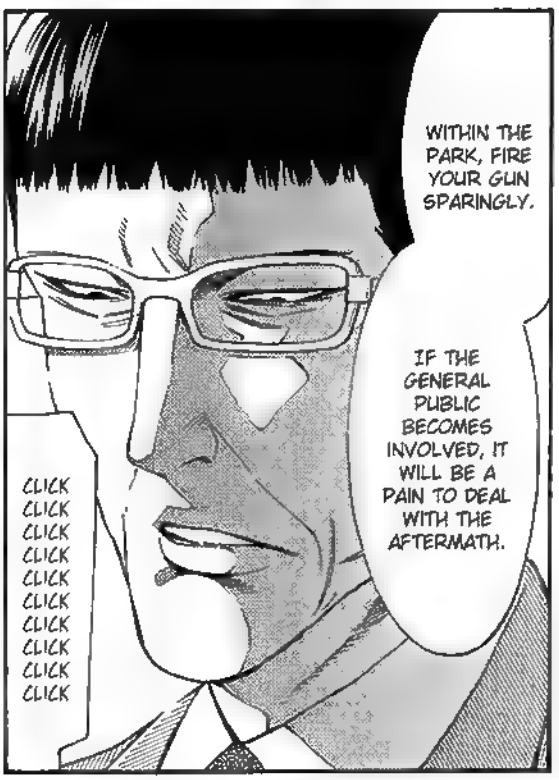
SFX: clank clank

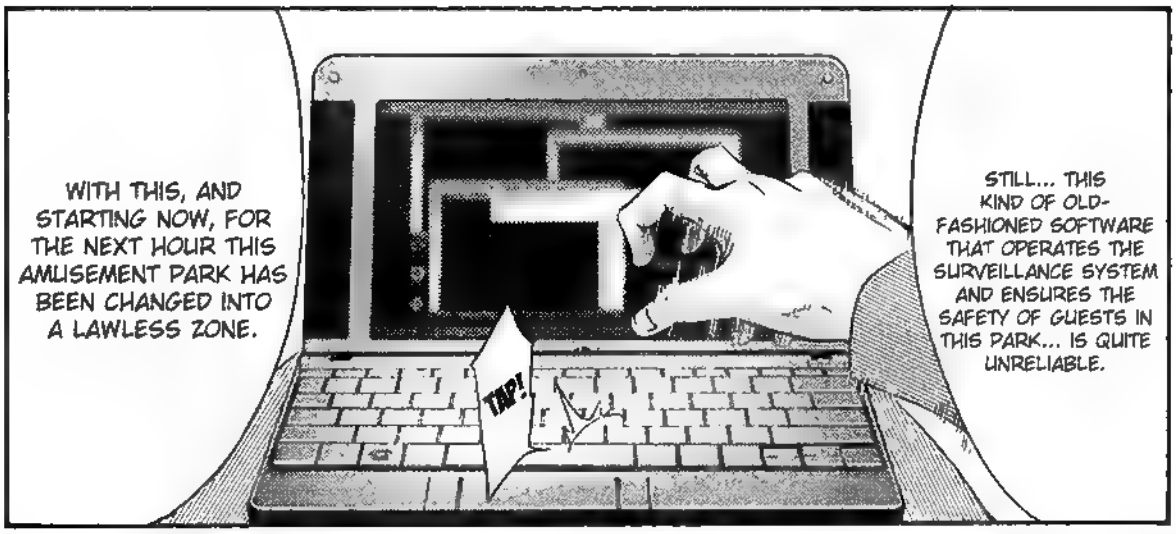
TS/N. Quick reactions? More like ESP.


.....
ゴッ
DON'T WORRY, OSHITARI.
THAT GUY TOOK A SHOT IN HIS SHIN. AND THAT UNDERWORLD RIFF-RAFF... THEY CANNOT REQUEST HELP FROM ORDINARY PEOPLE, CAN THEY?

SFX. clank






WITH THIS, AND STARTING NOW, FOR THE NEXT HOUR THIS AMUSEMENT PARK HAS BEEN CHANGED INTO A LAWLESS ZONE.
TAP!
STILL... THIS KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED SOFTWARE THAT OPERATES THE SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AND ENSURES THE SAFETY OF GUESTS IN THIS PARK... IS QUITE UNRELIABLE.

SFX: ominous
LET'S DO OUR BEST TO PROVIDE SOME ENTERTAIN-MENT, SHALL WE?
WELL, THEN.

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

POLI
警視庁
AS FAR AS THE ORGANISATION OF THE POLICE SERVICE IS CONCERNED, IN ADDITION TO INVESTIGATIVE POLICE, THERE IS ONE FORCE WHOSE SOLE CONCERN IS THE MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY.
THE PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE.

PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE OF THE WHOLE COUNTRY ARE UNDER CENTRALISED CONTROL OF SECURITY BUREAU OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY, THE PILLAR OF THE ENTIRE POLICE SYSTEM.
CONTRARILY TO INVESTIGATIVE POLICE THAT ARE UNDER CONTROL OF THEIR RESPECTIVE PREFECTURES,

THEY FORM THE VERY CORE OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND ARE TASKED MOSTLY WITH ILLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS.
FURTHERMORE, THERE IS A UNIT WITHIN PUBLIC SAFETY THE EXISTENCE WHEREOF IS NOT ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICLY.

Public safety.

•The preservation of a peaceful state of affairs in society.

•Public and social peace.

ALSO KNOWN AS "ZERO".

THE SECURITY PLANNING DIVISION OF THE NPA SECURITY BUREAU.

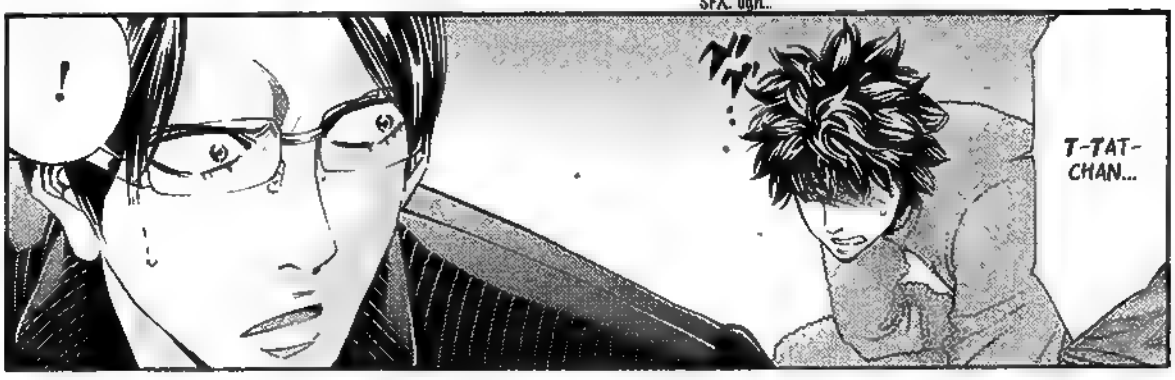
第8話

CHAPTER 77: UNSIGHTLY

SFX: trembling

SFX: trembling

SFX. ugh..



SFX: ugh...

SFX. throb!

SFX: dash

SFX: throb!

I'M CARRYING IKUO SOMEWHERE OUT OF SIGHT, YOU LEAD THE WAY!
HA-YATO.
YOU KNOW THIS PLACE IN DETAIL, RIGHT?
EH? AH... YEAH...
!? B-BUT... TAT-CHAN...
WE'RE MAKING A TEMPORARY RETREAT.
SFX: shove

YOU TOO, ARE GOING TO FOLLOW THEM THERE SOON!!!

IT'S NOT AS IF I CAN RELY ON IKUO LIKE THIS...!!

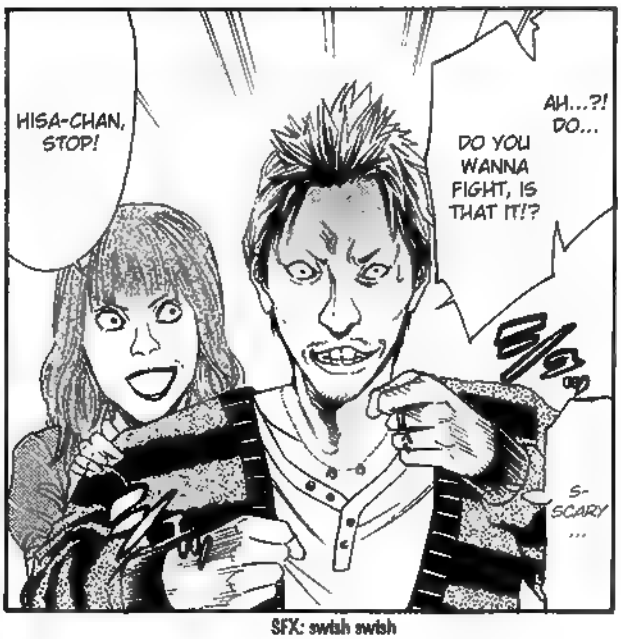
YUASA AND KATSURADA WENT AHEAD AND ARE WAITING FOR YOU IN HELL.
OSHITARI... GANAHA...

THOSE FELLAS CANNOT GET OUT OF THE PARK.
DON'T WORRY.
HEY, HEY... AREN'T THEY GOING TO ESCAPE? IS THAT OKAY, OSHITARI?
SFX. clank, clank
HE UNDERSTANDS PERFECTLY THAT THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS MAKING ENEMIES OF US AND GETTING AWAY WITH IT.
THAT STUPID BRAT HAYATO NOTWITH-STANDING, THAT SO-CALLED DANNO FELLOW IS QUITE SHARP.
SO HE IS THINKING OF RE-TURNING FIRE?
SOUNDS FUN.
SFX: step!
I WON'T BE SURPRISED IF HE HAS THOUGHT THINGS THROUGH AND CONCLUDED THAT HE HAS A BETTER CHANCE TAKING US ON HERE AND NOW WHILE WE ARE ALL IN THE PARK.
IN THE STREETS... IN HIS OWN HOUSE... IN HIS WORKPLACE... THE FEAR OF NOT KNOWING WHEN OR WHERE YOU WILL BE TARGETED IS WHAT FRIGHTENS HIM, AS HE IS SURE TO SLOWLY LOSE HIS MIND IF THIS BE-COMES A PRO-LONGED WAR OF ATTRITION.

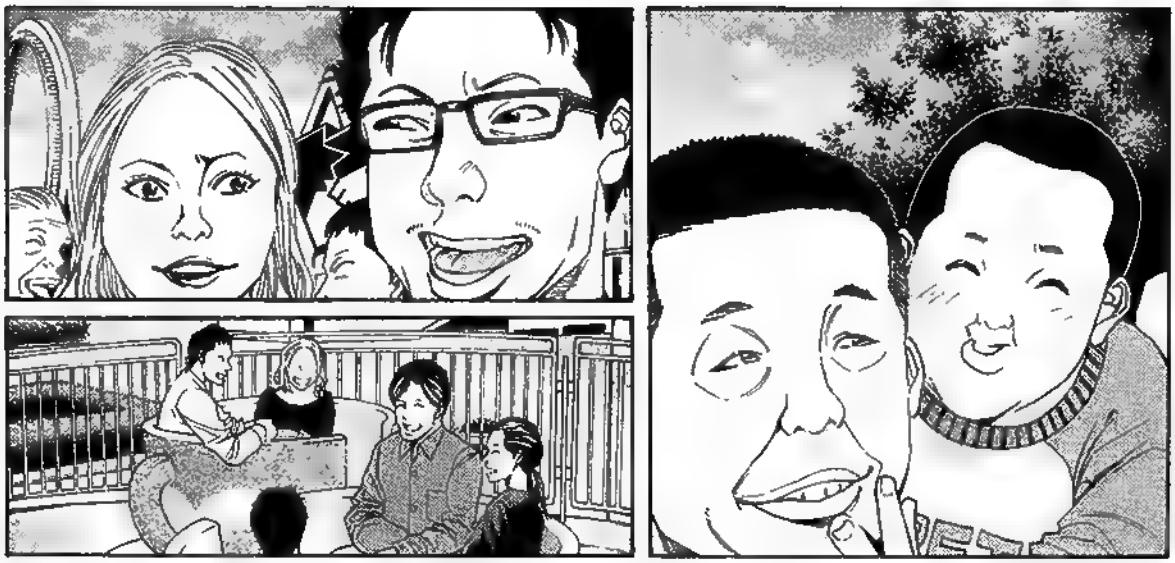
I GIVE THAT LADIES' MAN A GOOD ONE AFTER WHAT HAPPENED AT THE ARCANA MID SHIBUYA, UH...
I'M GOING TO SEND HIM TO AN EARLY GRAVE!

SFX. step step

SFX. bump!



SFX: swish swish



SFX. crowd noises

SFX: crowd and machine noises

AMUSEMENT PARKS LIKE THIS ARE THE VERY SYMBOLS OF JAPAN'S CURRENT GUTLESSNESS.
JUST LOOK AT THIS SLOVENLY LOT, ALL MAKING STUPID, CARELESS FACES...

I GOT IT, I GOT IT, CAN'T ONE MAKE A JOKE!?
YOU'RE SUCH A STIFF, HAVE SOME FUN EVERY ONCE IN A...
GANAHA.
THESE, AND THESE ALONE, ARE OUR TASKS.
KILLING YAMASHIRO HAYATO AND ERASING ALL EVIDENCE OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE AND THE POLICE.

WE ARE HANGING BY A THREAD...
HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?
I AM SUPER-INTENDENT OSHITARI FROM THE NPA SECURITY BUREAU, SECURITY PLANNING DIVISION, AND THE LEADER OF THE OSHITARI SQUAD.
YOU DO AS I SAY, SU-PERINTENDENT GANAHA!

SFX: clank!
GLAD YOU UNDERSTAND. LET'S TRACK THEM DOWN WITHOUT FUR-THER ADO.
I... AM SORRY...
MY APOLO-GIES, TEAM LEADER OSHITARI.
SHIT!

THIS TIME AROUND, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO MAKE MISTAKES LIKE BEFORE...
BY HOOK OR BY CROOK, WE MUST MEET HIS EXPECTATIONS, OR ELSE WE WILL...

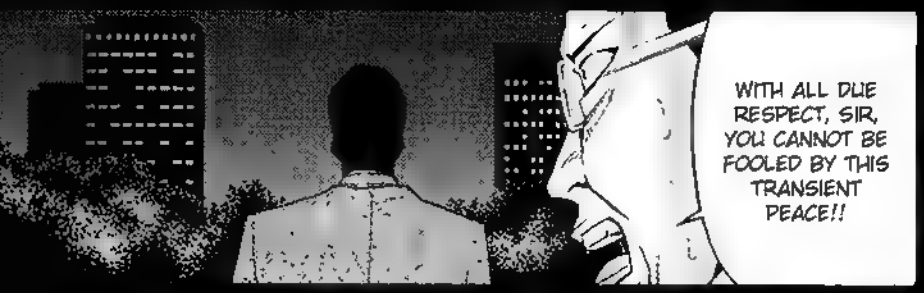
INCIDENTALLY
OSHITARI-KUN, GANAHA-KUN
HOW MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THAT?

... IT'S A LONG TIME.
ER...
ALREADY 17 YEARS.
ゴォ
オ
SFX wind blowing

IS NOW REDUCED TO JUST YOU TWO.
WITH THAT, THE PUBLIC SAFETY UNDERWORLD UNIT, THE FEARSOME OSHITARI SQUAD..
WHILE KATSURADA TO ADVANCE HIS OWN SELFISH DESIRES, PLANNED TO RELEASE CONFIDENTIAL PUBLIC SECURITY INFORMATION TO THE MASS MEDIA.
AS YEARS PASSED, YUASA REGRETTABLY BECAME UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE MENTAL STRESS OF HIS PUBLIC SAFETY DUTIES AND WITHDREW FROM THE ORGANISATION.

THE PUBLIC SAFETY IDEALS...
.....
I BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FACT THAT THE TWO OF THEM BECAME FAILURES WHO FORGOT THE PUBLIC SAFETY IDEALS.
...I APOLOGISE.
ITS MAIN SURVEILLANCE TARGETS ARE EXTREMIST GROUPS LIKE CULTS AND FAR-LEFT ORGANISATIONS, AS WELL AS SPIES FROM FOREIGN AGENTS SUCH AS RUSSIA, CHINA AND NORTH KOREA...
THE PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE ARE COMPOSED OF THE ELITE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND TASKED WITH PROTECTING THE STATE.
AMID THE GENERAL PUBLIC... AND EVEN FROM— WITHIN THE POLICE, THERE ARE NUMEROUS VOICES WHO CALL THE EXISTENCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE INTO QUESTION.
AND TOGETHER WITH THE CHANGE IN THE TIMES, THE OLD ROLES HAVE DIMINISHED IN IMPORTANCE OR DISAPPEARED, AND THIS IS NO LONGER THE PUBLIC SAFETY POLICE FROM THE SEVENTIES AND EIGHTIES, WHEN ITS PERSONNEL AND BUDGET WERE FOREVER INCREASING.
HOWEVER TIMES HAVE CHANGED WHILE YOU HAVE BEEN UNDERGROUND

ARE YOU A NEEDED EXISTENCE IN THE PEACEFUL SOCIETY OF NOW?
AS A RESULT, YOU, ZERO, THE TOP-SECRET, ILLEGAL UNIT THE EXISTENCE OF WHICH SYMBOLISES THAT VERY PUBLIC SAFETY...


WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR, YOU CANNOT BE FOOLED BY THIS TRANSIENT PEACE!!

WAI...
PLEASE WAIT A LITTLE?!
DOESN'T IT GO WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE ARE NEEDED?!

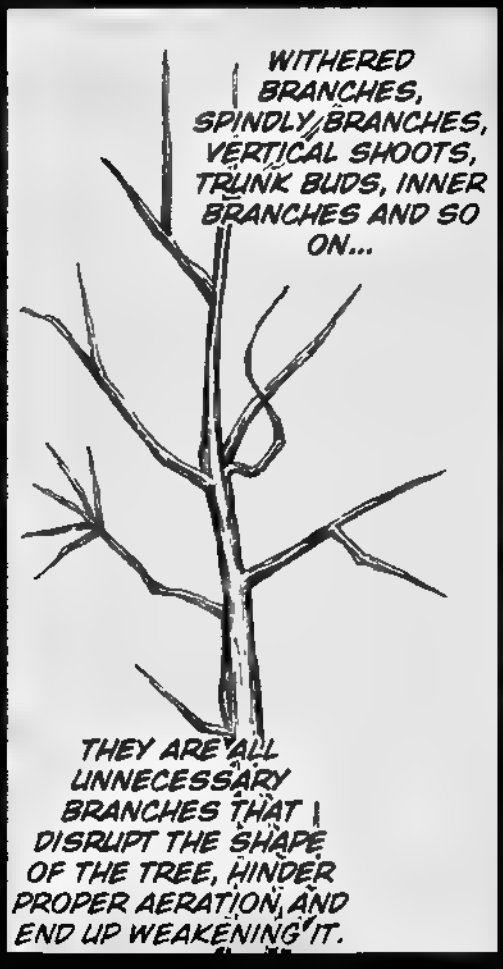
SFX: clench...
... BUT IT'S FOR THAT EXACT REASON THAT WE ARE NEEDED...
WE, FROM PUBLIC SAFETY!

SURELY, FROM THE LATE EIGHTIES ON, WITH THE DISCLOSURE OF ILLEGAL WIRETAPPING INVESTIGATIONS AND THE FAILURES TO INVESTIGATE RELIGIOUS SECTS...
WITH THESE REPEATED PUBLIC SAFETY SCANDALS THE IMAGE OF THE ENTIRE POLICE FORCE HAS BEEN DAMAGED.

.....
BESIDES, EVEN WITHIN PUBLIC SAFETY THERE IS NO ONE OTHER THAN US FROM ZERO WITH THE ABILITY TO CARRY OUT TOP-SECRET MISSIONS...
CALM DOWN, OSHITARI-KUN.
IF THE POLICE, ON TOP OF ALL THAT, ARE WEAKENED, THIS COUNTRY WILL CRITICALLY COMPROMISE NOT ONLY OUR ABILITY TO KEEP WATCH ON OUR EXTERNAL ENEMIES BUT OUR INTERNAL ORDER!
IT IS A MATTER OF DETER-RENCE!
SFX: waaah
IN ORDER TO PROTECT THIS COUNTRY'S SYSTEM THE DETERRENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS INDISPENS-ABLE!!
SFX: waaah
I'M SURE YOU KNOW THE TERM "UNSIGHTLY BRANCH"?
HUH? UH... SIGHTLY?

"UNSIGHTLY BRANCHES" ARE UNNECESSARY BRANCHES THAT DISTURB THE HARMONY OF SHAPE IN A TREE.
THE TERM BELONGS TO HORTICULTURE TERMINOLOGY IT APPLIES TO THE PRUNING OF BRANCHES IN POTTED PLANTS.

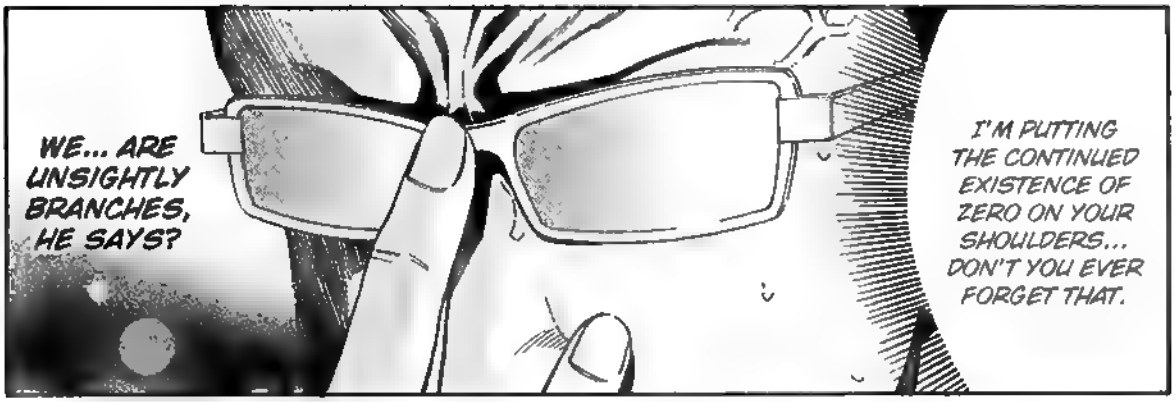
BY MEANS OF CUTTING AND REMOVING THIS SORT OF UNNEEDED BRANCH,
THE GOAL OF GROWING A HEALTHY AND BEAUTIFUL TREE IS ATTAINED.


WITHERED BRANCHES, SPINDLY BRANCHES, VERTICAL SHOOTS, TRUNK BUDS, INNER BRANCHES AND SO ON...
THEY ARE ALL UNNECESSARY BRANCHES THAT DISRUPT THE SHAPE OF THE TREE, HINDER PROPER AERATION, AND END UP WEAKENING IT.

WHETHER YOU FROM ZERO ARE AN "UNSIGHTLY BRANCH" OR NOT.

AS FAR AS THE BIG TREE OF THE POLICE IS CONCERNED,

LET ME ASCERTAIN IT.


WE... ARE UNSIGHTLY BRANCHES, HE SAYS?
I'M PUTTING THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF ZERO ON YOUR SHOULDERS... DON'T YOU EVER FORGET THAT.

WE FROM ZERO HAVE PERFORMED OUR ACTIVITIES UNDER THE BLANKET OF SECRECY,
AND HAVE LIVED IN THE DARK FOR THE SOLE BENEFIT OF OUR COUNTRY.

BESIDES THE FACT THAT THE NATURE OF OUR INVESTIGATIONS MUST BY NO MEANS REACH THE PUBLIC,

AND WE DON'T DO IT FOR PRAISE.
WE DON'T DO IT FOR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.

WE ARE A LOATHED ENTITY, IS THAT IT?
AS FAR THE POLICE SYSTEM IS CONCERNED,

THOSE FOOLS ARE SAYING!?
IS THAT WHAT
SFX crowd noises
SFX music wind blowing
IS... THIS FELLOW GOING TO BE OKAY?
... YEAH.
VOLLEY

IT WILL BE DANGEROUS IF WE LEAVE HIM LIKE THAT!
UGH
THANKS TO THE DISTANCE FROM WHICH HE WAS SHOT, THE WOUND IS NOT FATAL...
HOW-EVER...

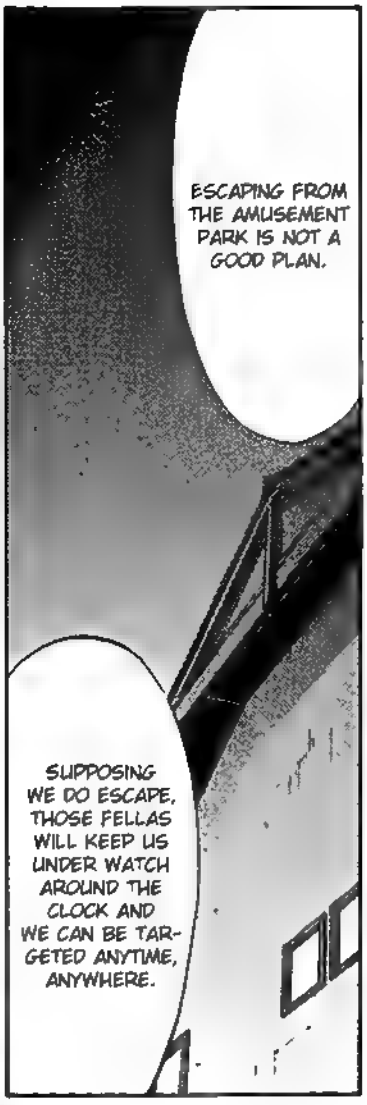
DON'T SLABBER NOW, IKUO
I... I AM SORRY TAT-CHAN

NOT POSSIBLE
I MEAN WE REALLY NEED TO GET HIM TO A HOSPITAL FIRST

AFTER I ENTRUST HIM TO A HOSPITAL, I WILL BE ULTIMATELY UNABLE TO PROTECT HIM.
THEIR LOT CAN USE LEGAL MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL TO TRACK IKUO DOWN. CONVERSELY,

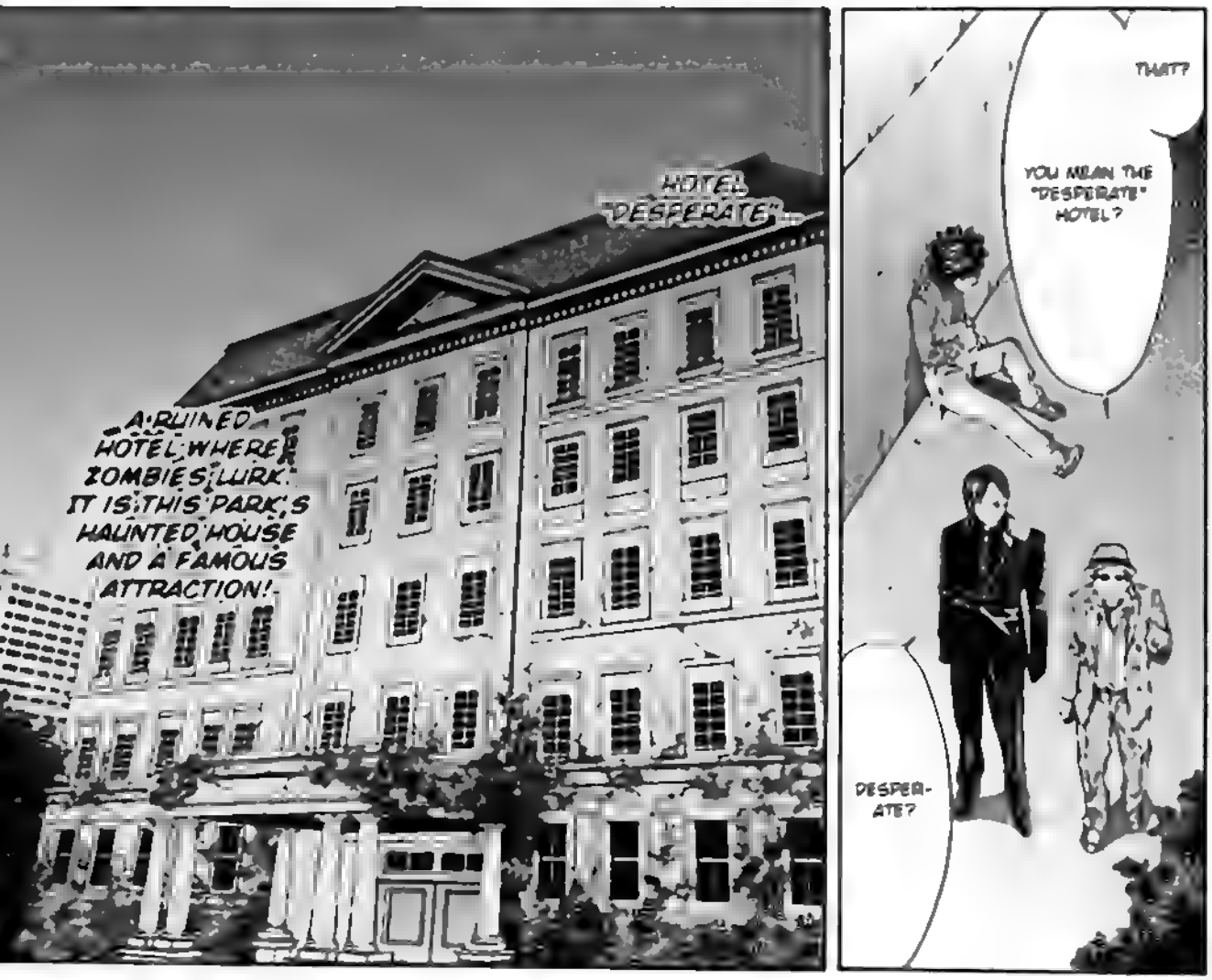
!
THOSE FELLAS ARE THE POLICE, AFTER ALL.

IT'S SIMPLE.
BUT... WELL, THEN... WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO? THERE IS NO LIMIT TO WHAT THOSE FELLAS..


ESCAPING FROM THE AMUSEMENT PARK IS NOT A GOOD PLAN.
SUPPOSING WE DO ESCAPE, THOSE FELLAS WILL KEEP US UNDER WATCH AROUND THE CLOCK AND WE CAN BE TARGETED ANYTIME, ANYWHERE.

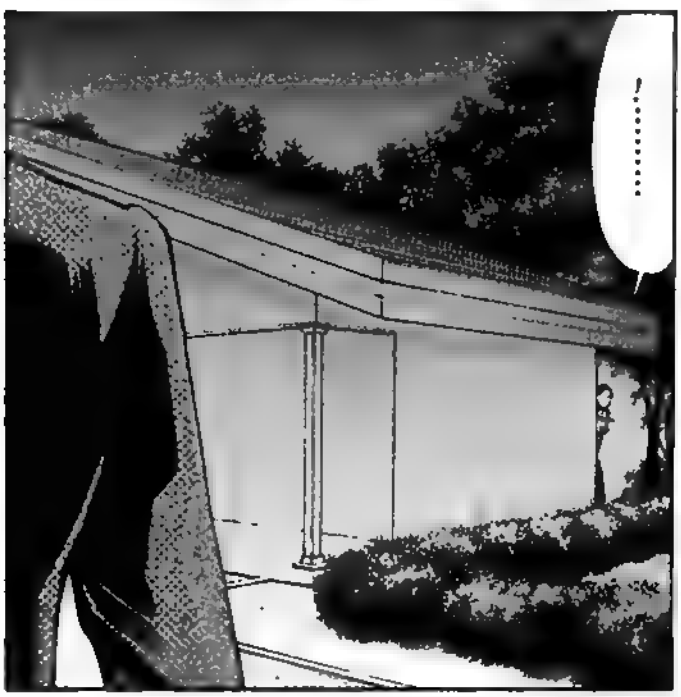
BEFORE THEY KILL US,
WE KILL THEM.

SFX: rise!
SINCE WE'RE WOUNDED, THOSE TWO WILL TRY TO KILL US OFF IN ONE COUP, RIGHT NOW!
TURNING THAT AROUND, IT'S OUR CHANCE TO GET THEM FIRST!
SFX: freeze!
NO...
NO WAY!?
DON'T YOU KNOW I'M NOT EVEN CARRYING A PISTOL!?
SFX. gyaaa!
WE'RE SCREWED!! WE'RE TOTALLY SCREEE-WEED!!
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE, NE THER AM I.
BOTH IKUO AND I CAME HERE EMPTY-HANDED... FUCK!
THIS TIME, OUR GOAL WAS JUST TO OFFER HAYATO SHELTER, AND BECAUSE OF THAT-


HOTEL "DESPERATE"
A RUINED HOTEL WHERE ZOMBIES LURK. IT IS THIS PARK'S HAUNTED HOUSE AND A FAMOUS ATTRACTION!

AFTERWARDS, THE COMPANY THAT BOUGHT THE WHOLE AREA, INCLUDING THE HOTEL, HAS PUT IT TO USE AS AN ATTRACTION IN THIS AMUSEMENT PARK.
ORIGINALLY THIS PLACE WAS A REAL HOTEL IN THE CLASSIC STYLE, UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY A WEALTHY PERSON WHO OWNED THIS AREA, BUT WHOSE REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS EVENTUALLY FOLDED.

AH, WELL, SINCE THE OLD MAN BROUGHT ME HERE, I'VE BECOME A REGULAR AND VISITED THIS PARK MANY, MANY TIMES.
YOU KNOW YOUR STUFF
ON TOP OF WHICH, THE WEALTHY GEEZER WHO OWNED THIS WAS AN ECCENTRIC AND BUILT ITS INTERIOR AS A MAZE FROM WHICH IT IS DIFFICULT TO ESCAPE.
JUST AS ONE WOULD EXPECT OF A PLACE ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO BE A HOTEL, THE PLACE IS A TOP-CLASS BUILDING!


!.....

... HEY, THIS IS NOT THE TIME AND PLACE TO-

MMFF!?

SFX: ovor!

ON THE OTHER HAND, JUST LEAVING HIM HERE ALONE
BUT... I CANNOT TAKE IKUO.

!
... I'M FINE...

IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THEY FIND US...
MMFF!
IF WE DON'T MOVE FROM THIS PLACE SOON...

.....
THOSE FELLAS... GO AND...
I AM... O-OKAY...
TAT-CHAN...

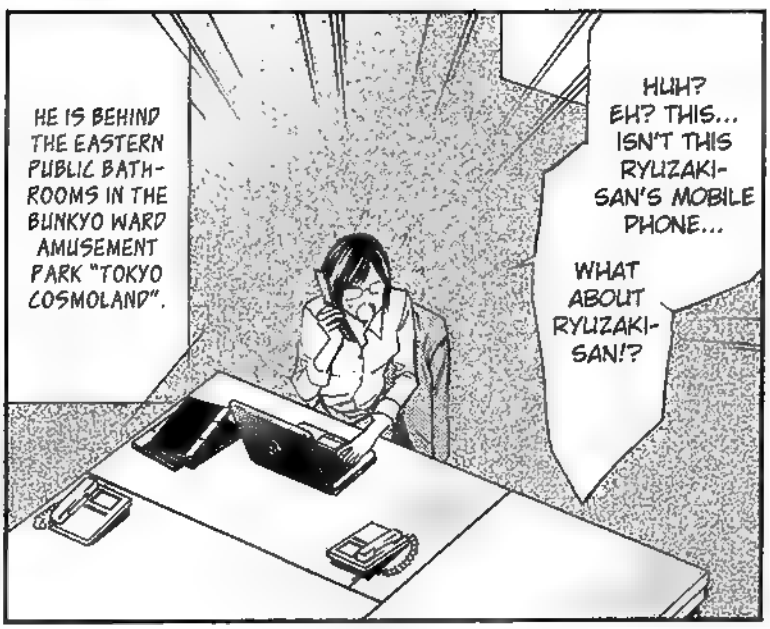
I ONLY HAVE TO GET SOMEONE TO COME AND RESCUE HIM...
I CANNOT LEAVE IKUO HERE IN THIS CONDITION!

BESIDES, THAT FELLOW IS, IN AND OF HIMSELF, EVEN MORE TROUBLESOME THAN ZERO...
HE ALREADY SUSPECTS OF A CONNECTION BETWEEN IKUO AND ME...
! CHONO... IF IT'S HIM...
...NO, THAT WON'T DO.

!
VRRR
VRRR
UNLESS IT'S SOMEONE WHO WILL BE, WITHOUT FAIL, AN ALLY TO IKUO, I CANNOT LEAVE HIM HERE...
IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHOM WE CAN RELY ON MORE...
!
VRR .. VRR ..
VRR...
IT'S THE MOBILE PHONE IKUO USES FOR POLICE MATTERS...
VRRR... VRRR...
CLICK
BEEP
HELLO!? RYUZAKI-SAN!?
THIS IS THE ONLY PERSON IN WHOSE HANDS I CAN LEAVE HIM...
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, LEAVING EARLY WITHOUT ASKING AND LEAVING ALL THE OVERTIME WORK TO ME-

... EH?
IS THIS... HIBINO MIDUKI?
DOLL

COME HERE WITHOUT DELAY!
WA!... WAIT A SEC, WHO THE HECK ARE YOU...


HE IS BEHIND THE EASTERN PUBLIC BATHROOMS IN THE BUNKYO WARD AMUSEMENT PARK "TOKYO COSMOLAND".
HUH? EH? THIS... ISN'T THIS RYUZAKI-SAN'S MOBILE PHONE...
WHAT ABOUT RYUZAKI-SAN!?

RYUZAKI HAS BEEN WOUNDED... IF WE LEAVE HIM IN THIS CONDITION,
HE WILL DIE!

THAT VOICE... RYUZAKI-SAN!?
!
TAT-CHAN... I'LL BE FINE... SO... HURRY...
UGH...
SFX. crowd noises
FOUND THEM, GANAHA?
HIBINO MIDUKI, I'M LEAVING IKUO TO YOU!
THEY ARE NOT IN THE WESTERN SIDE, TEAM LEADER OSHITARI.
WAI...
BEEP
RYU-ZAKI-SAN, WHAT ON EARTH...
... I REALLY DID NOT WANT TO USE YOUR HELP, BUT THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY...
YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WITHIN THE POLICE IN WHOM WE CAN TRUST...

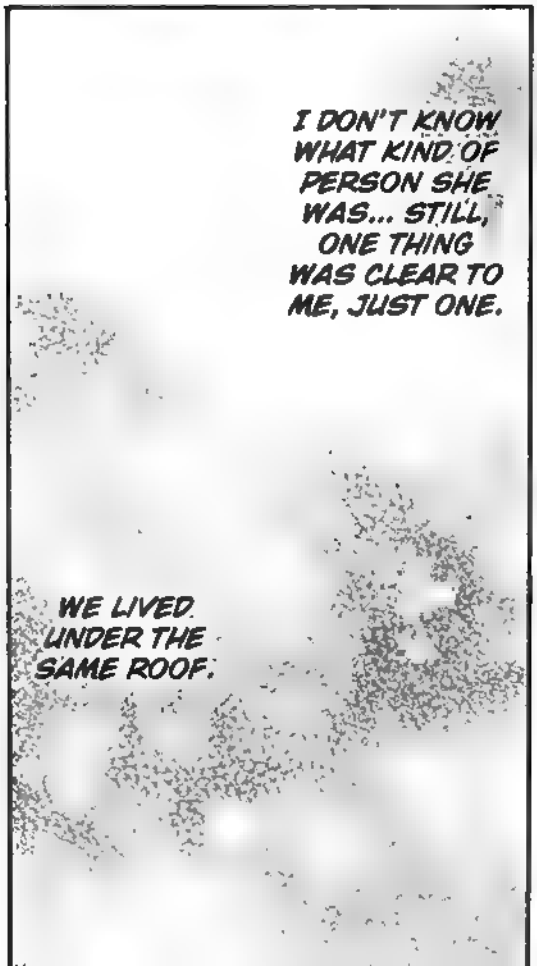
THAT DANNO FELLOW'S EYES...
NO... THAT IS IMPOSSIBLE.
SFX
.....
AS I THOUGHT, THOSE FELLAS HOOF'D IT...
WHAT THOSE EYES HARBORED AGAINST US WAS MURDERING INTENT.
THEY ARE NOT THE EYES OF A MAN WHO WILL COWER IN TERROR WHEN HE IS BEING CHASED...
YOU DIDN'T THINK WE WERE GOING TO RUN AWAY, DID YOU?
!
!
TEAM LEADER OSHI-TARI!

ALL THESE YEARS, SINCE I WAS A BRAT... I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS DAY!

.....

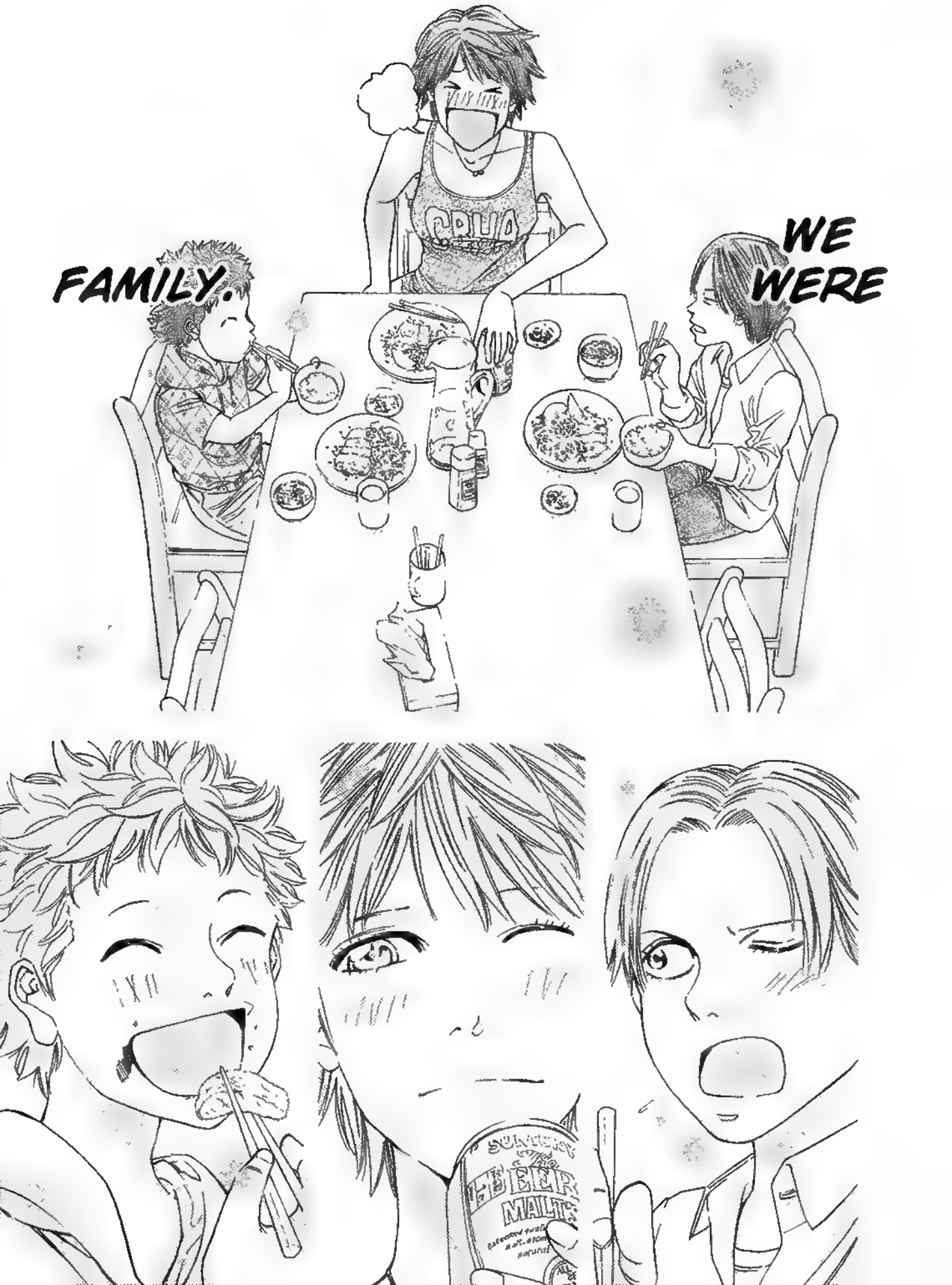
IS HE STILL ALIVE?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR COMPANION? EH?
THAT LITTLE BUNNY ♪

AFTER WE HAVE KILLED YOU, WE WILL FERRET HIM OUT.
I DUNNO WHERE HE IS HIDING, BUT I'M NOT WORRIED.


I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE WAS... STILL, ONE THING WAS CLEAR TO ME, JUST ONE.
WE LIVED UNDER THE SAME ROOF.

!
WHY DID YOU KILL "KASHIWABA YUIKO"?

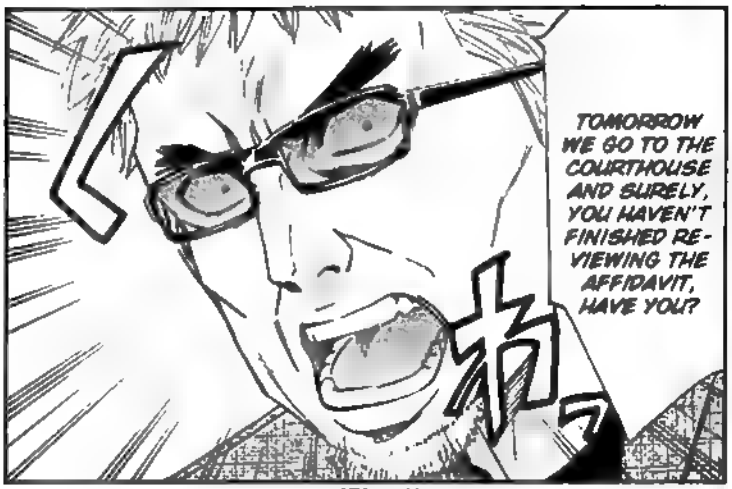
!.....
I AM AN ORPHAN AND WAS RAISED BY HER.


FAMILY.
WE WERE

IF YOU CANNOT BE JUDGED BY THE LAW...
STRETCH...
THEN, "GOLD WATCH"
AND YOU WILL BE JUDGED BY US!
CLENCH!

WAIT RIGHT THERE!
Bleh!
INTERESTING!
HOHOHO... YOU SAY YOU WILL JUDGE US?
SFX: trembling with excitement
SFX: trembling with excitement
I HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF BABY-SITTING STUPID BRATS AND DISPOSING OF OLD YAKUZA FOOLS!
I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!!
AS THAT MAN SAID... HONESTLY, PEACEFUL AS IT IS NOW, I AM FED UP WITH THIS COUNTRY!
"IF THERE ARE NO ENEMIES, THERE IS NO MEANING TO YOUR EXISTENCE."

HEY, HIBINO, WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU ARE GOING!?

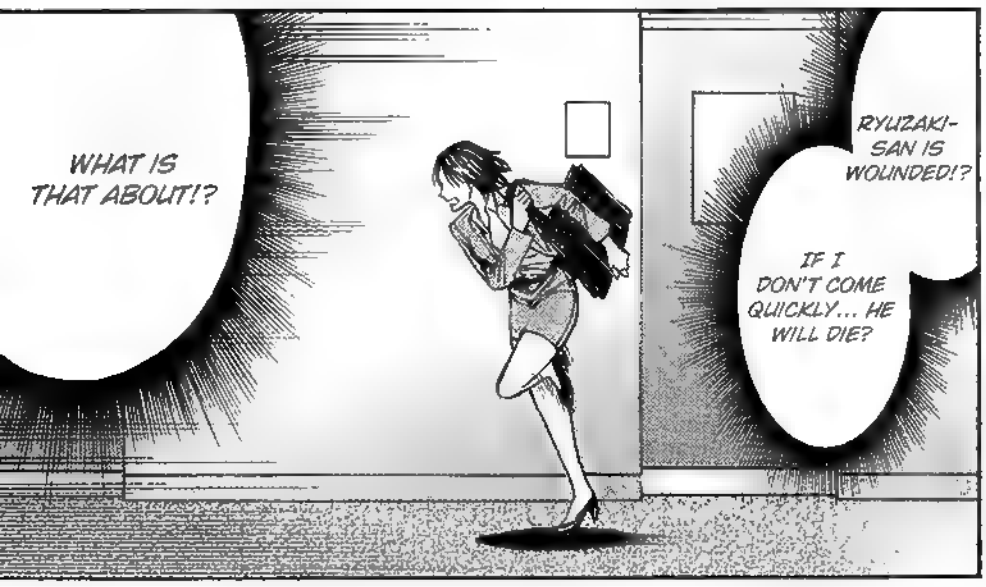

TOMORROW WE GO TO THE COURTHOUSE AND SURELY, YOU HAVEN'T FINISHED RE-VIEWING THE AFFIDAVIT, HAVE YOU?
SFX. gaaH

NO-CAN-DO! ARE YOU SAYING YOU WON'T LISTEN TO AN ORDER OF YOUR SUPERVISOR!?
I'M SORRY, BANDO-SAN!
I'LL BE BACK LATER AND STAY THE WHOLE NIGHT!

TS/N: Iunno you peeps, but to me, 200 pages is just a little bit above OVER THE MOTHERFUCKING TOP.

SFX: running

SFX: dash!



... AND WHO IS "TAT-CHAN"?

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

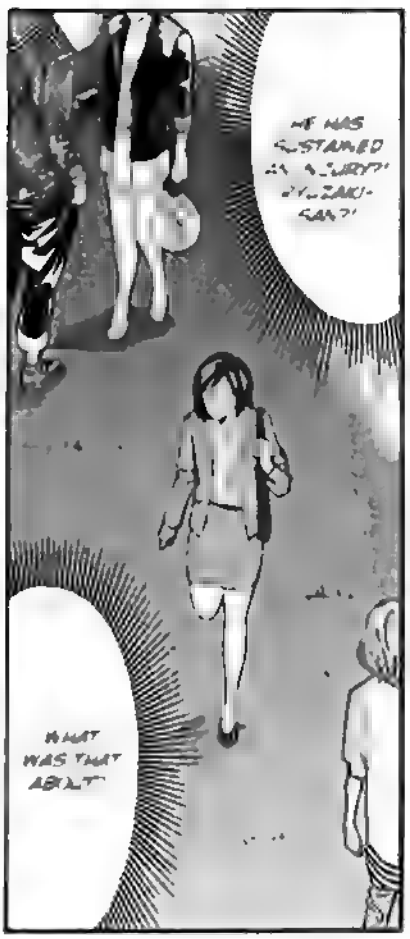
ouroboros

SFX. machine noises

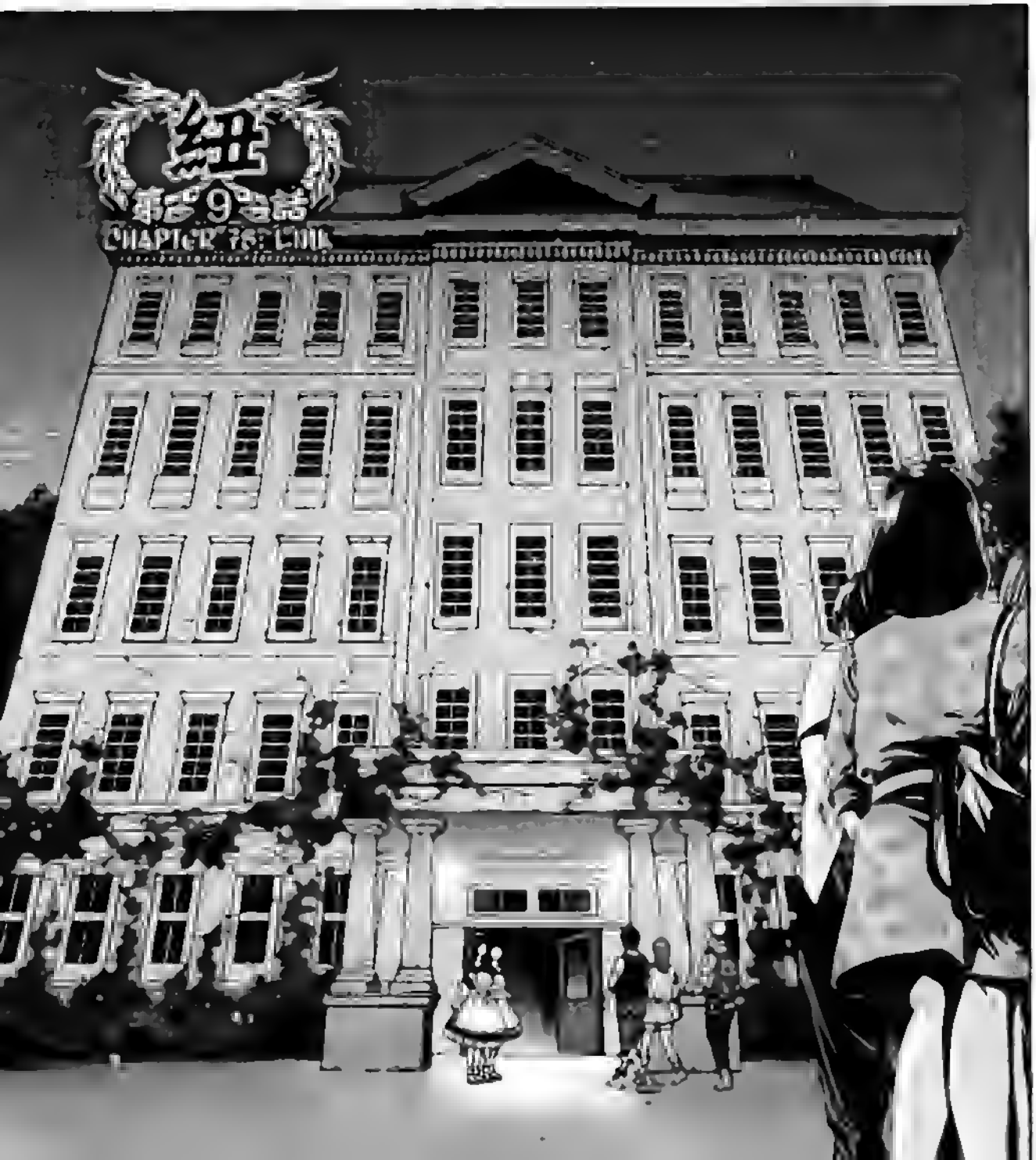
RYUZAKI HAS BEEN WOUNDED... IF WE LEAVE HIM IN THIS CONDITION,
HE WILL DIE!

WHO THE HECK IS "TAT-CHAN"?
BESIDES HE DESERVES IT IN THE FIRST PLACE

WHATEVER, I HAVE TO HURRY!!
HOTEL DESPER


HE HAS SUSTAINED AN INJURY? RYUZAKI-SAN?
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

HOTEL
DESPERATE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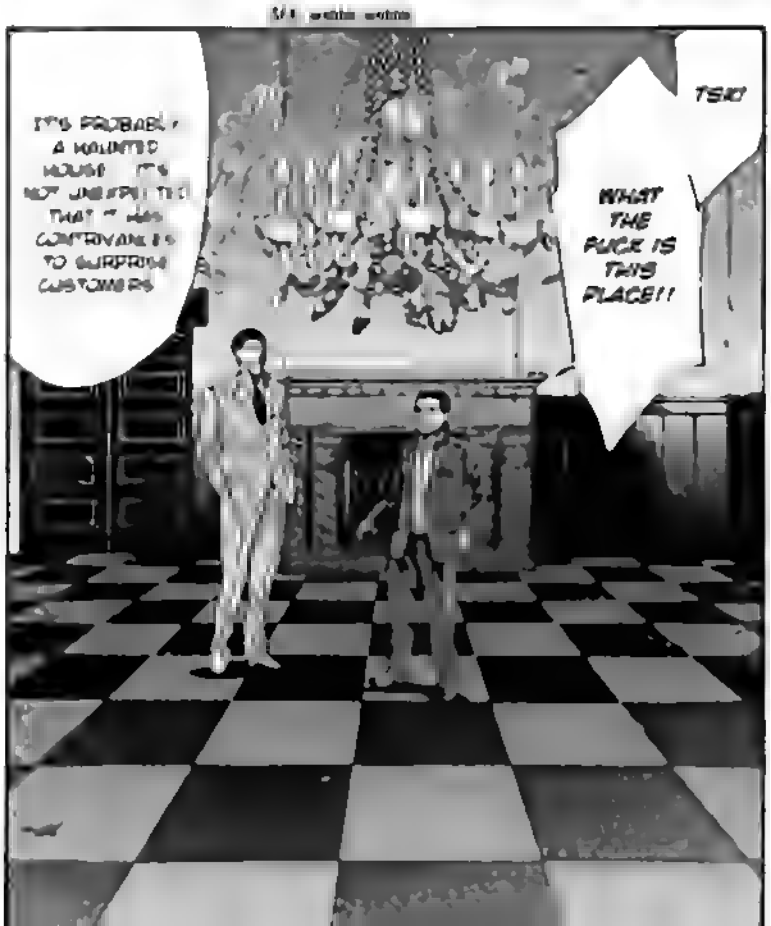
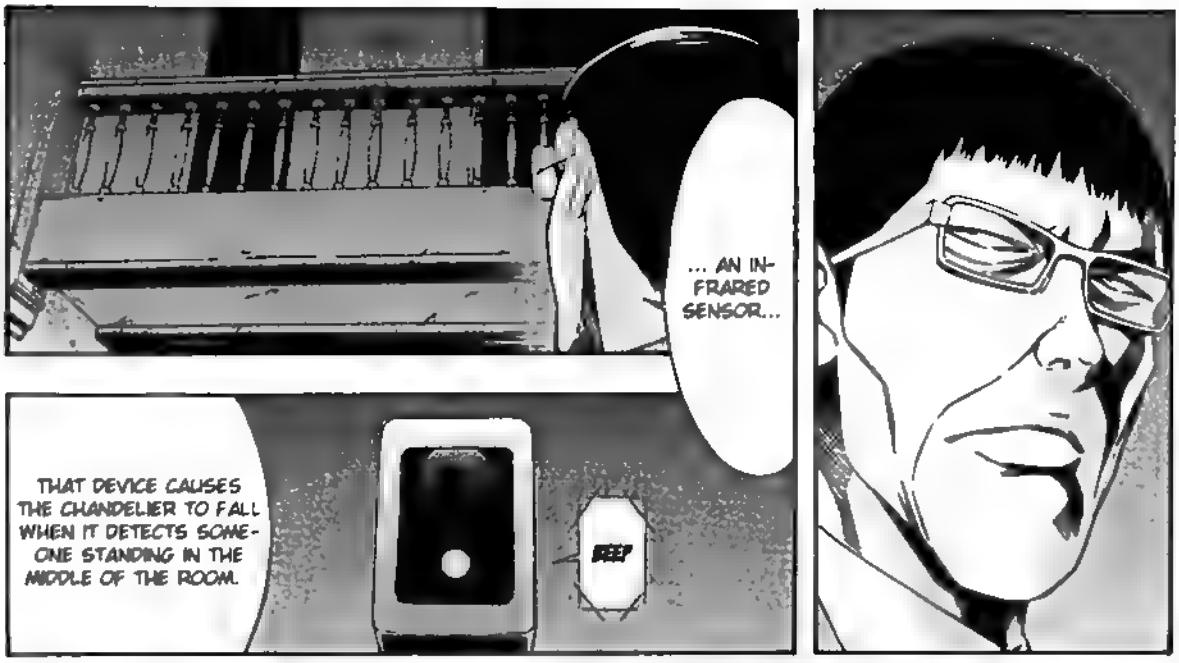
CHAPTER 78: LIMIT

!?


IT'S PROBABLY A HAUNTED HOUSE. IT'S NOT UNEXPECTED THAT IT HAS CONTRIVANCES TO SURPRISE CUSTOMERS
TSK!
WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS PLACE!!

!!

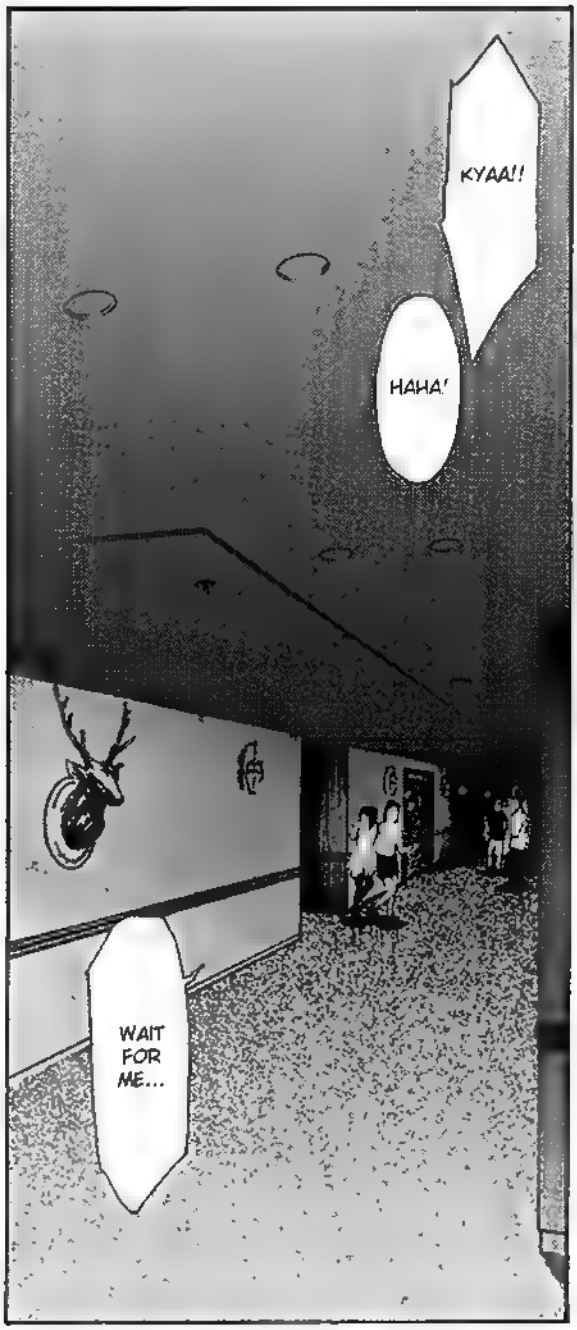

... AN IN-FRARED SENSOR...
THAT DEVICE CAUSES THE CHANDELIER TO FALL WHEN IT DETECTS SOME-ONE STANDING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM.
BEEP

SFX. oooh or another zombie sound

TS/N As a Terraria player I think you mean "BRAIN"

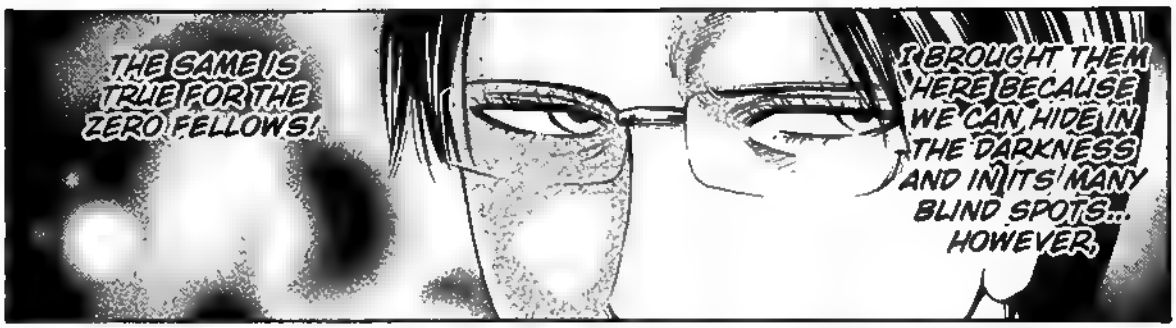
!?
OH...
SFX: pull!
WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! WHAT?!
EH...
EEH?
HEY.
HAVE YOU, BY ANY CHANCE, SEEN A BESPECTACLED FELLOW WEARING A DARK SUIT AND A SICKLY-LOOKING DELINQUENT AROUND HERE?
SFX. crash!
I'M GOING UPSTAIRS
LET'S SPLIT, GANAHA.
!
AH... I SEE.
I DON'T KNOW ANYONE LIKE THA-

RO-OOGER!
OBVIOUSLY, BEFORE YOU GO LOOKING FOR THEM, TURN OFF THE TORCH WE WERE GIVEN WHEN WE ENTERED THE BUILDING.
AND WE DON'T NEED TWO PEOPLE TO KILL THAT DANNO FELLOW ALONE.
FROM THE OUTSET, HAYATO DIDN'T COUNT AS MANPOWER FOR THEIR SIDE.
IF, BY ANY CHANCE, AN ORDINARY CUSTOMER ENDS UP BEING SHOT, DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH WILL BE A MAJOR PAIN.
ALSO... UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ARE YOU TO USE YOUR GUN.
SFX. clench..
I GET IT, TEAM LEADER OSHITARI. TO KILL THOSE FELLAS MY BARE HANDS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH.
... BESIDES,
THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT, KNOWING THAT SO LONG AS WE FIGHT WITH GUNS IT'S OUR VICTORY, THEY WILL SET A TRAP TO CATCH US OFF GUARD.
BESIDES, WITHIN THE DARKNESS OF THIS BUILDING THERE WILL BE NUMEROUS BLIND SPOTS... OUR ACCURACY RATE WILL BE EXCEPTIONALLY LOW.


KYAA!!
HAHA!
WAIT FOR ME...

KILLING THEM QUICKLY WOULD BE A BUZZKILL!

... IT'S QUITE IMPRESSIVE, THIS BUILDING...
I KNOW, RIGHT?
THAT'S BECAUSE IT USED TO BE THE REAL THING, A CLASSICAL HOTEL THAT WAS REPURPOSED INTO AN ATTRACTION!


I BROUGHT THEM HERE BECAUSE WE CAN HIDE IN THE DARKNESS AND IN ITS MANY BLIND SPOTS... HOWEVER,
THE SAME IS TRUE FOR THE ZERO FELLOWS!

SFX: crack!
!!

SFX: crash, smash!
SFX: dash!
SFX: hmm
A SUR-PRISE ATTACK!?
SFX: nudge

GYAAAA

NO, SURELY THIS ISN'T TOO MUCH FOR YOU? THAT
LET'S GO DO HAYA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU...
.....

THAT'S RIGHT! LET'S HIDE HERE AND LET THOSE TWO FROM ZERO SEARCH AROUND UNTIL THEY CROAK!
HOW ABOUT IT?
THIS .. IS WHERE THEY KEPT THE BED LINEN?

MY OLD MAN, THOUGH, WOULD QUICKLY GET COLD FEET AND LEAVE.
"DESPERATE" WAS MY FAVOURITE ATTRACTION IN THIS PARK, THAT'S WHY.

BEHIND HERE THERE IS A DEAD SPACE.
IF WE HIDE HERE, IT WON'T BE SO EASY TO FIND US
YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR STUFF

CHAO? COULD IT BE, DANNO THAT THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME IN A HAUNTED HOUSE?
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING
HMPH
WHAT'S SO FUN ABOUT A PLACE LIKE THIS?

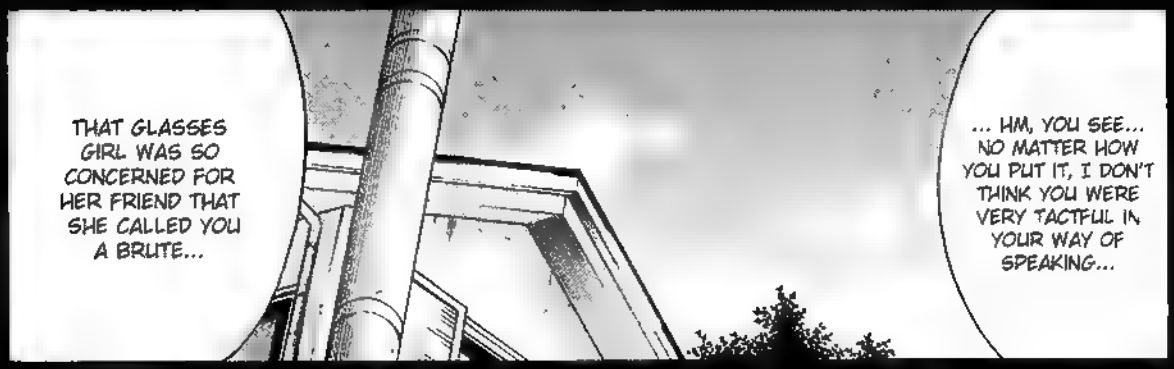
.....
... I'LL KILL YOU, BASTARD
UNEXPECTEDLY, YOU ARE QUITE SQUEAMISH, AREN'T YOU?
YOUR REACTION EARLIER, THOUGH... MY SIDES WERE ABOUT TO SPLIT.
DIDN'T YOU COME TO AN AMUSEMENT PARK TOGETHER? THAT PERSON...
"YUIKO-SENSEI", WAS IT?
YOU TWO ARE OUT TO AVENGE THAT YUIKO-SENSEI
IT'S JUST THAT I COULDN'T AVOID LISTENING...
... WAI.. D-DON'T GLARE AT ME LIKE THAT
.....

.....
EVEN THOUGH I TOLD YOU ABOUT MY OLD MAN...
A-AFTER ALL... IT'S UNFAIR IF I AM THE ONLY ONE TO SPEAK...
HUUH!? WHO DO YOU THINK I AM!? I AM YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE'S...
SO EVEN A STUPID, PAMPERED BRAT LIKE YOU CAN SAY SENSIBLE THINGS OCCASIONALLY
YEAH, I SEE YOUR POINT WHEN YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT
WHILE THEY ESCAPED, THE PERPETRATORS WERE SEEN BY TWO CHILDREN WHO HAD BEEN IN CUSTODY OF THE INSTITUTION AT THE TIME.
A CRIME OCCURRED 17 YEARS AGO IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA.
THE WOMAN IN CHARGE OF AN ORPHANAGE CALLED "MAHOROBA" WAS SHOT DEAD.

AND THAT... IS THE REASON WE SEEK REVENGE.
THE NAME OF THE VICTIM WAS "KASHIWABA YUIKO".
HOWEVER... THEIR TESTIMONY WAS SUPPRESSED BY A CERTAIN POLICEMAN.
THE TRUTH OF THE CASE WAS CONSIGNED TO OBLIVION.
NO...
EVEN THOUGH YOU WERE NOT CONNECTED BY BLOOD, SHE WAS "FAMILY"...
I-I SEE... THEN...
IF WE ARE TO CALL IT BY THE REAL NAME, IT WAS DIFFERENT FROM "FAMILY". OR AT LEAST,
IT WAS FOR ME...
TATSUYA-KUN! SO... I MEAN... GO OUT WITH ME!!

WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER.
HOR-
!!
!!
W- when hell...
"WHEN HELL FREEZES OVER" IS TOO MUCH!!
.....
YOU'RE HORRI-BLE!!
MAKING A GIRL CRY IS THE WORST! APOLOGISE TO RIKA!
DANNO, YOU BRUTE!
WHEN... WHEN HELL... FREEZES OVER...

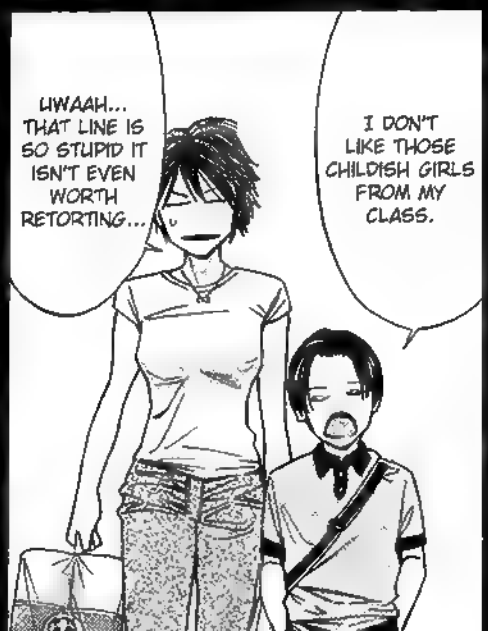
HERE'S YOUR HELL!!
SHOULD I SAY IT ONE MORE TIME? WHEN HELL FREE-
SFX: slap!
I SAID IT CLEARLY FOR HER OWN SAKE, DIDN'T I?
WHY?
.....
HE MAY HAVE GOOD LOOKS BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT A GIRL'S FEEL-INGS...
YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT A BOY LIKE THAT AS QUICK AS YOU CAN, RIKA, FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
UH.
THAT'S A BAD HABIT YOU HAVE, YUIKO-SENSEI.


THAT GLASSES GIRL WAS SO CONCERNED FOR HER FRIEND THAT SHE CALLED YOU A BRUTE...
... HM, YOU SEE... NO MATTER HOW YOU PUT IT, I DON'T THINK YOU WERE VERY TACTFUL IN YOUR WAY OF SPEAKING...

.....
HMMM...
ARE YOU NOT INTERESTED IN GIRLS, TATSUYA?

EEH!? THAT GIRL?!
THAT GIRL? HAH! SHE CAME TO CONFESS AND I TURNED HER DOWN NOT LONG AGO, TOO.
IT WAS THE SAME THING THE MINUTE I SAID NO... I WONDER WHETHER SHE REALLY SAID THAT OUT OF CONCERN FOR HER FRIEND... WOMEN, SERIOUSLY...

EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE SO HELPFUL TAKING CARE OF IKUO... HAAH...
WHO WOULD THINK YOU WERE SO COLD TO GIRLS...


UWAAH... THAT LINE IS SO STUPID IT ISN'T EVEN WORTH RETORTING...
I DON'T LIKE THOSE CHILDISH GIRLS FROM MY CLASS.

!……
STILL, IT'S TRUE THAT NONE OF THESE GIRLS IS AS GOOD A MATCH FOR YOU AS IKUO, ISN'T IT?
む…
THAT LINE IS SO STUPID IT ISN'T EVEN WORTH RETORTING.
I'M SORRY.
HA!
NO WAY, ARE YOU SAYING IT'S FOR IKUO THAT YOU…
SFX: hmph…
TS/N: Dammit woman! Give the BL shipping a rest!
A girl, I mean
There is one especially like
SFX: fidget fidget, kyaa kyaa
Tell me, tell me, what kind of girl is she!? Hm!?
Aaaah, I cannot even begin to guess!!
Noway-noway!
Kyaah!
SFX: sparkle!

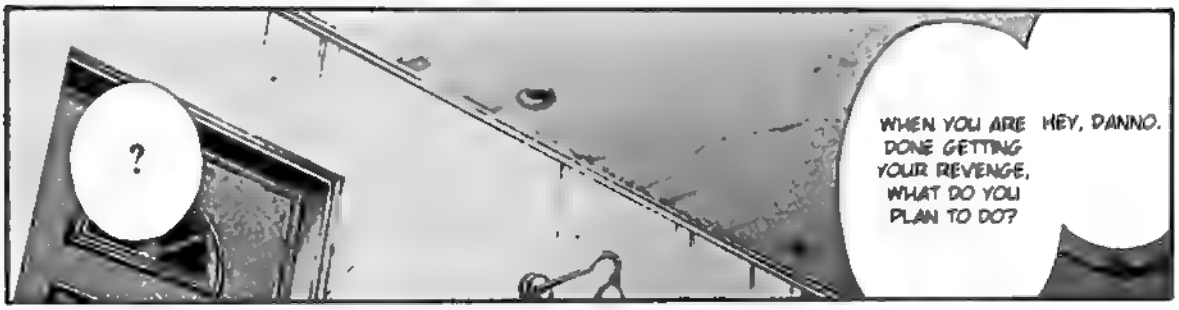
?
IF WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT LOVE...
Sparkle
Sparkle
Sparkle
THERE IS.
A NICE ADULT LIKE YOU, ALL ALONE...
WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUIKO-SENSEI, THERE'S NO ONE YOU LIKE, RIGHT?

TOO BAD FOR YOU.
I HAVE SOMEONE I LIKE.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, TATSUYA, TO TELL ME WHOM YOU LIKE! RIGHT?
NO.
EEEH? THAT'S CHEATING!
I DON'T WANNA.
I'M NOT GOING TO TELL ANYONE! PROMISE!
THE ONE...
.....
I SEE.

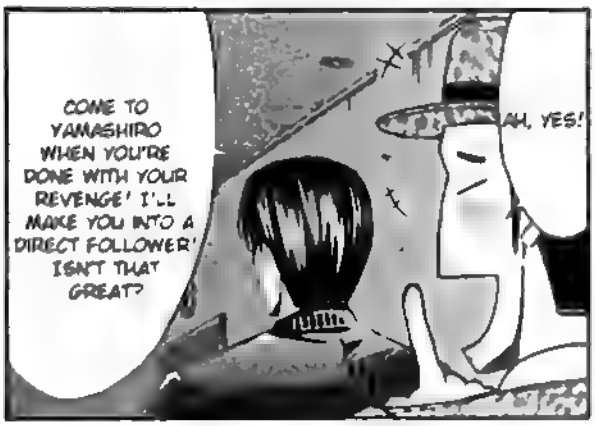
HAA

THE GIRL
I LIKE IS...

HEY...
HEY...
HEY, DANNO!
IF I DON'T FOCUS ON BRINGING DOWN THOSE TWO FROM ZERO...
...NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT UNNECESSARY THINGS.
WHAT'S WITH YOU, YOU WERE FROZEN LIKE A ROBOT!
I'M RELYING ON YOU, SO PLEASE PROTECT ME PROPERLY!
SHUT UP A LITTLE
EVEN IF WE KEEP HIDING HERE, OUR PREDICAMENT WON'T CHANGE.
LET'S MOVE QUIETLY, HAYATO.
EH!? H-HEY... WAIT JUST A SEC...


?
WHEN YOU ARE DONE GETTING YOUR REVENGE, WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?
HEY, DANNO.

WHAT ABOUT YOU, HAYATO?
HUH? ME?
OR RATHER.. WHEN THE REVENGE FOR YOUR YUIKO-SENSEI IS OVER, WHAT ARE THE TWO OF YOU GOING TO DO?


COME TO YAMASHIRO WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH YOUR REVENGE' I'LL MAKE YOU INTO A DIRECT FOLLOWER' ISN'T THAT GREAT?
AH, YES!

AFTER ALL, THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN RESCUE IT FROM ITS CRISIS AND ENSURE ITS CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS MYSELF, THE NEXT BOSS OF YAMASHIRO!
OF COURSE I AM GOING TO RALLY THE YAMASHIRO SYNDICATE AROUND ME!
I'm determined to do it!

I'M NOT INTER-ESTED

BY THAT REASONING, WHEN YOU ARE DONE TAKING REVENGE THERE WILL BE NO MORE REASONS FOR YOU TO LIVE!
THE ONLY REASON TO LIVE... YOU SAY. PFF!

TL/N: DON'T tell me that the stupid live-action, produced even before the manga is finished in Japan, got this one right?

THAT YOU INTEND TO DIE?

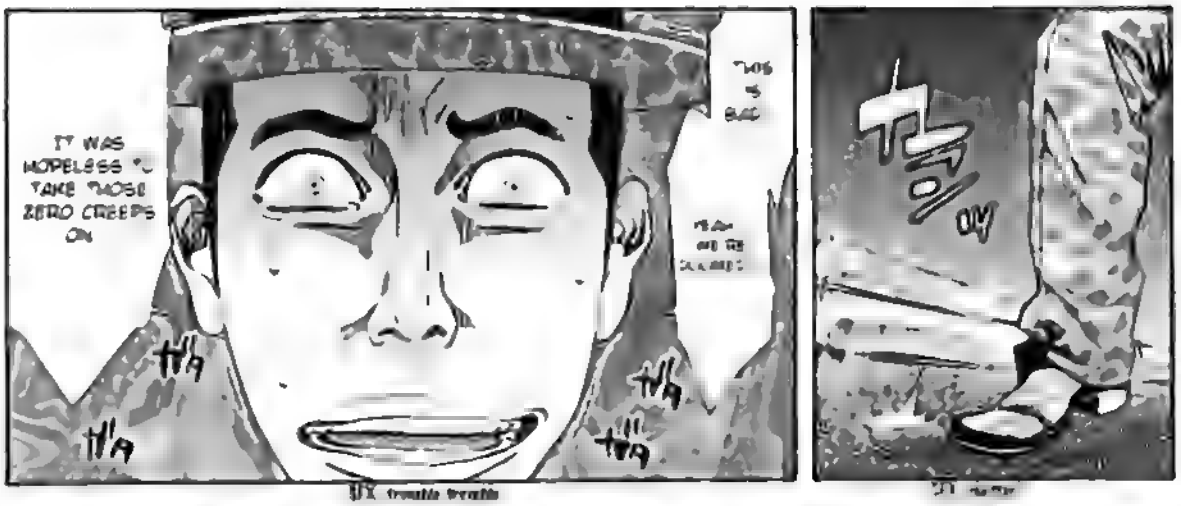
HEEH?
HAYATO!!
SFX: shovel
UWAH!

GH!!
SFX: swish!

SFX: whoosh

!!

I'M GONNA SHOW YOU... HOW MEANING-LESS THIS CHILDISH ATTRACTION IS...
COUGH
I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU THE REAL MEAN-ING OF HORROR!!
GASP


IT WAS HOPELESS TO TAKE THOSE ZERO CREEPS ON
THIS IS BAD
TH
OH

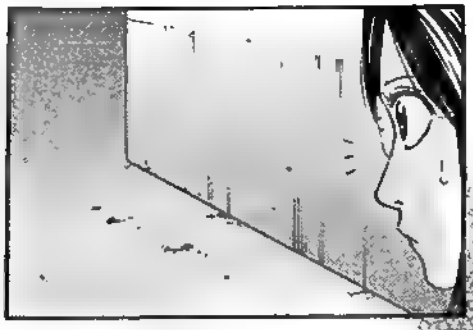
AH
AH
AH
UWAAA AH!!

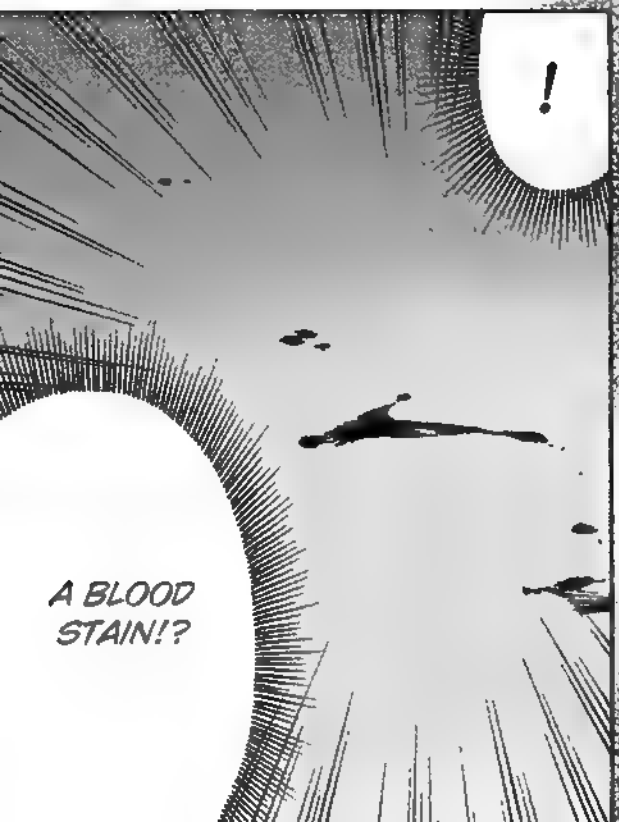
!!

... NOBODY HERE.
DON'T TELL ME THAT WAS A PRANK CALL...
SFX. step step step

TOILET

SFX. slip
!

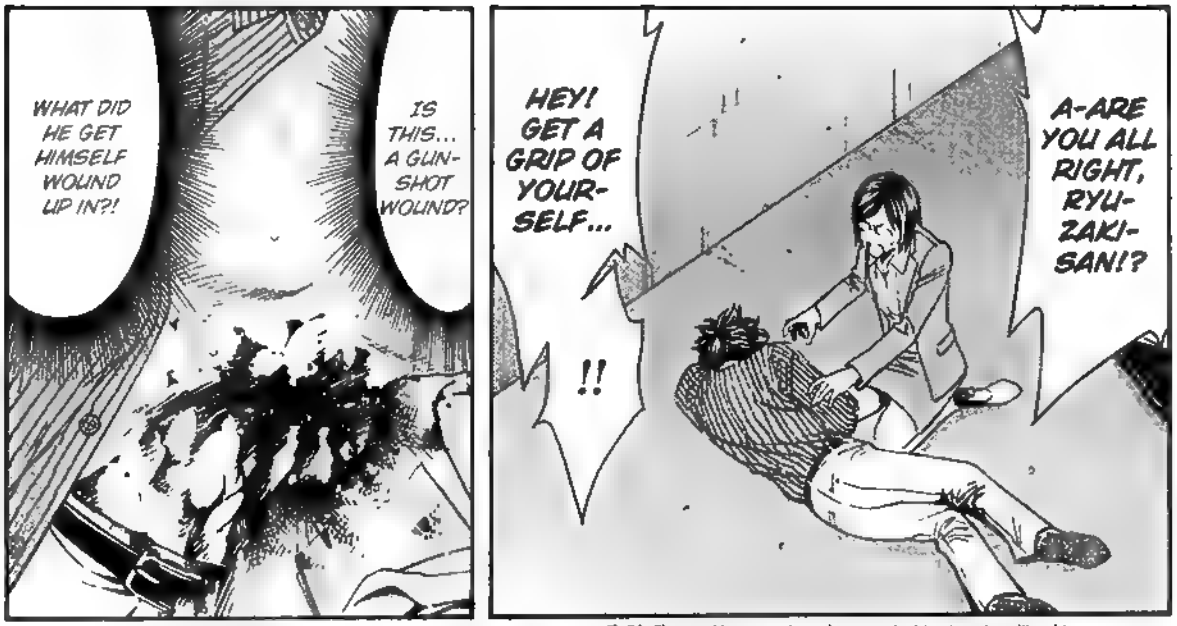



!
A BLOOD STAIN!?

BUT THE VOICE CLOSE TO THE MOUTHPIECE IN THE OTHER SIDE, I WAS ABLE TO HEAR IT SAY "TAT-CHAN"...
AND IT WAS DEFINITELY RYUZAKI-SAN'S...

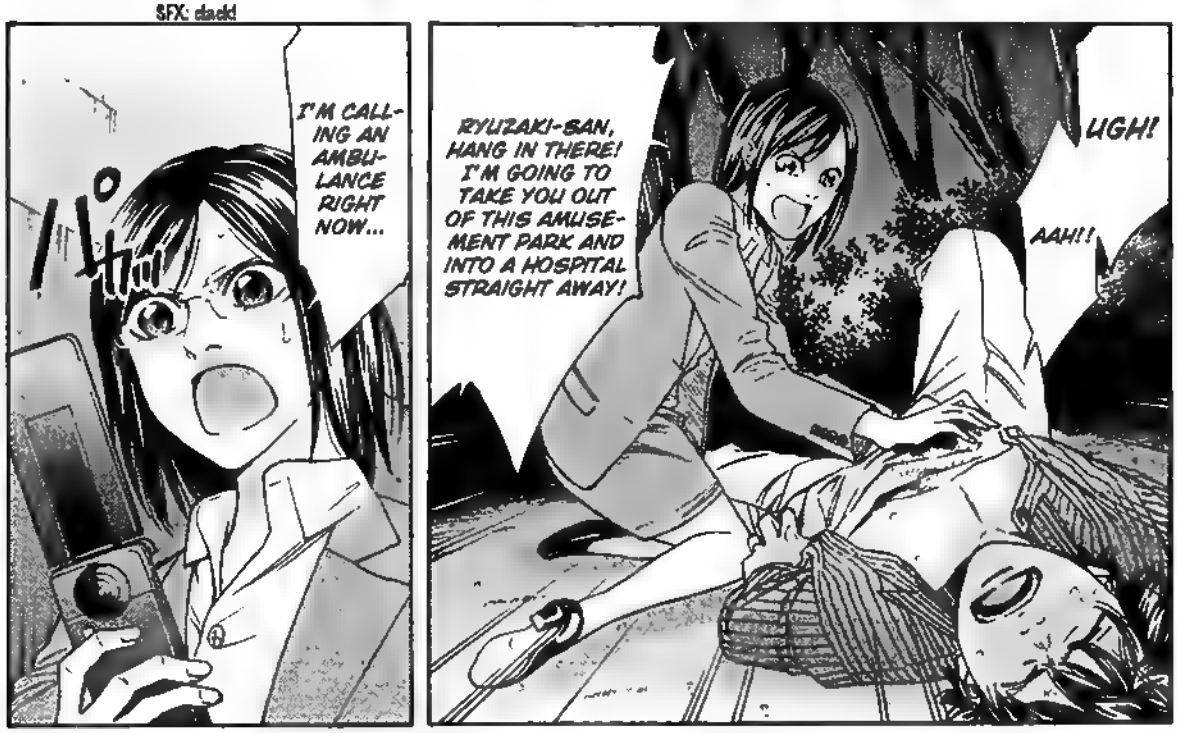
!!
SFX dash

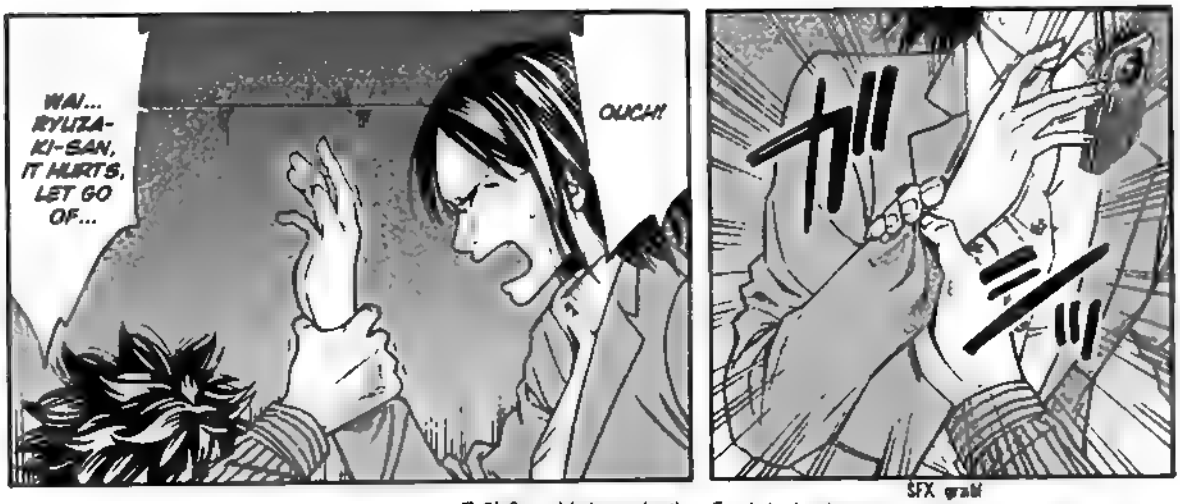
RYUZAKI-SAN!!
RYU...



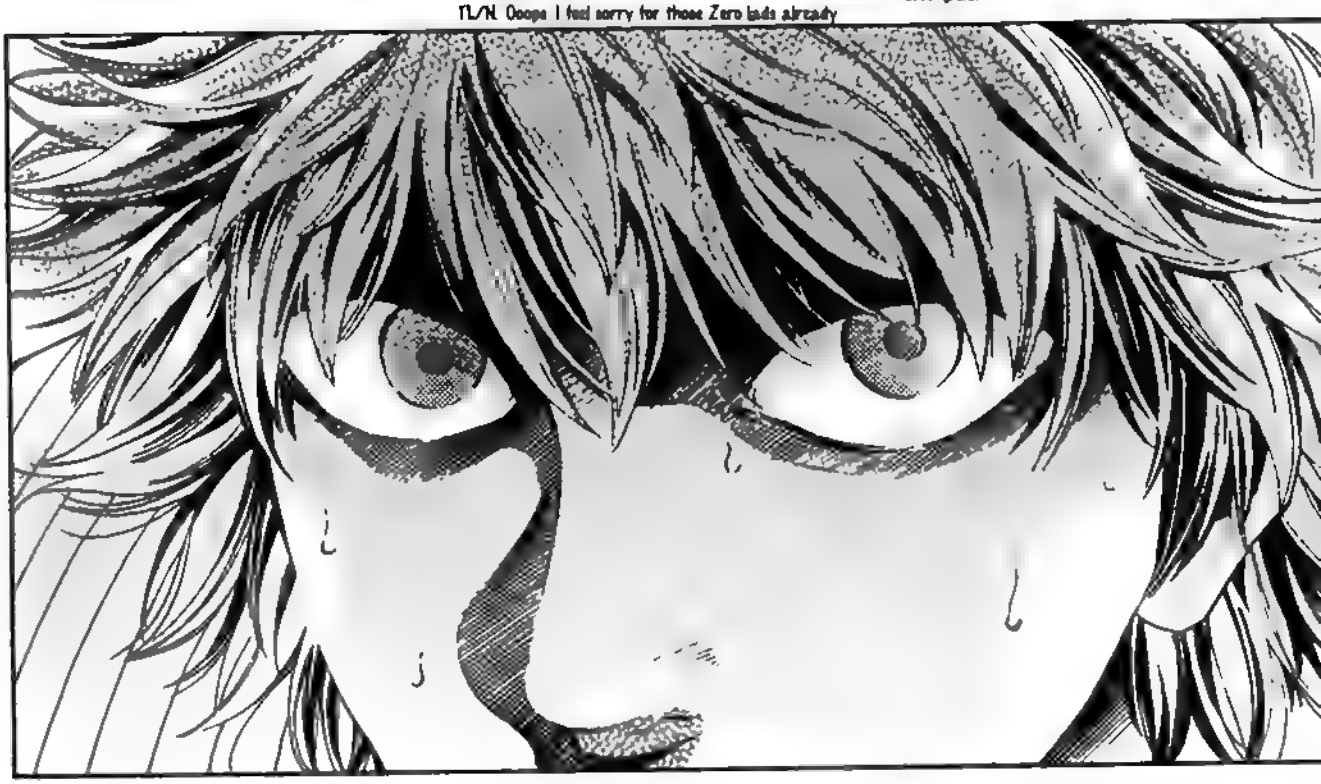
TL/N: The stupidest question, always asked in situations like this.

SFX: clack!


I'M CALL-ING AN AMBU-LANCE RIGHT NOW...
RYUZAKI-SAN, HANG IN THERE! I'M GOING TO TAKE YOU OUT OF THIS AMUSE-MENT PARK AND INTO A HOSPITAL STRAIGHT AWAY!
UGH!
AAH!!



TL/N Ooops I feel sorry for those Zero lads already



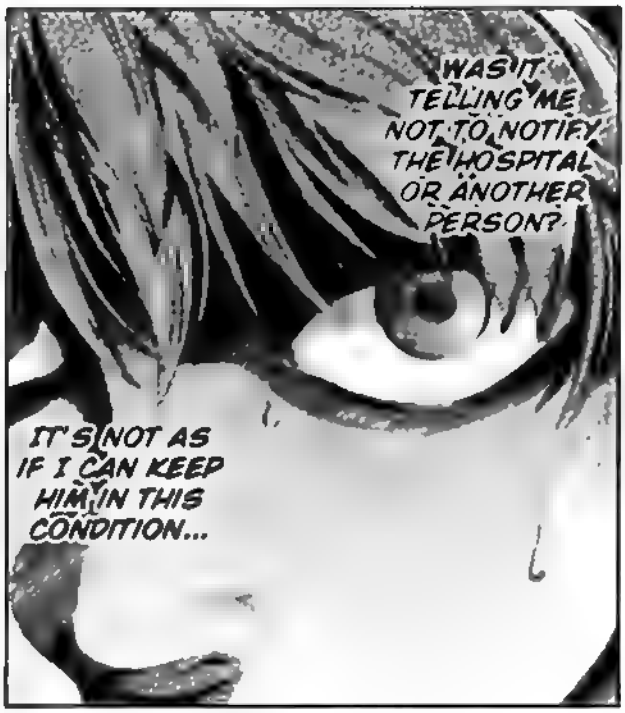
FIRST I HAVE TO STANCH THE HAEMORRHAGE
!
THIS...
THAT'S IT!
sarasara
4コ入り
IF I STOP THE BLEEDING WITH MENSTRUAL PADS..

... THIS SHOULD DO AS FIRST-AID MEASURE...

THAT EXPRESSION ON RYUZAKI-SAN'S FACE EARLIER
STILL,
BUT SINCE THIS IS MERELY AN EMERGENCY TREATMENT, I HAVE TO TAKE HIM TO A HOSPITAL, AND QUICKLY.

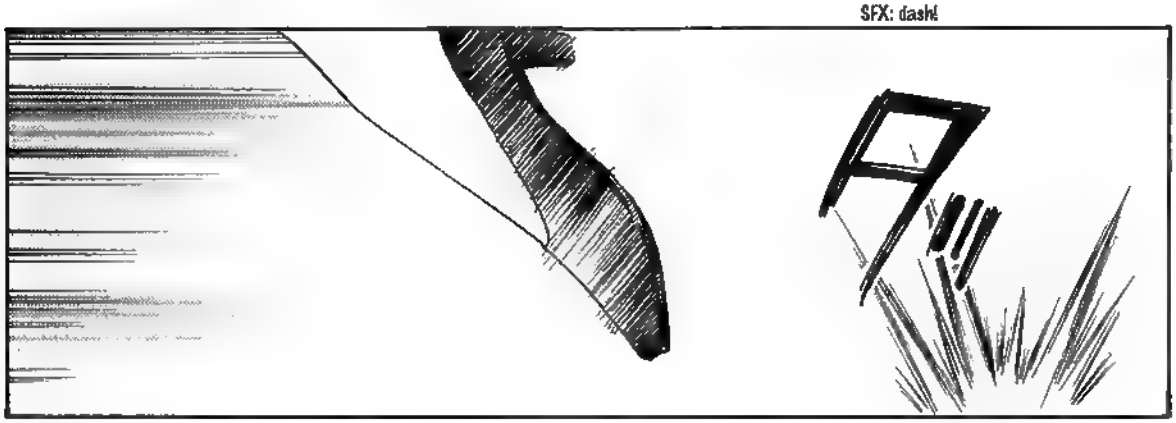
!
UGH

I'M TAKING YOU TO A HOSPITAL NOW
HAVE YOU REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, RYUZAKI-SAN? THANK HEAVENS


WAS IT TELLING ME NOT TO NOTIFY THE HOSPITAL OR ANOTHER PERSON?
IT'S NOT AS IF I CAN KEEP HIM IN THIS CONDITION...

WHERE DO YOU PLAN ON GOING WITH YOUR BODY LIKE THAT!?
WAI...
YOU CAN'T MOVE NOW! I HAVE ONLY JUST STOPPED THE BLEEDING...
EH?
SFX: gnnn...

I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER, SO FOR NOW...
... I'M SORRY, HIBINO-SAN.

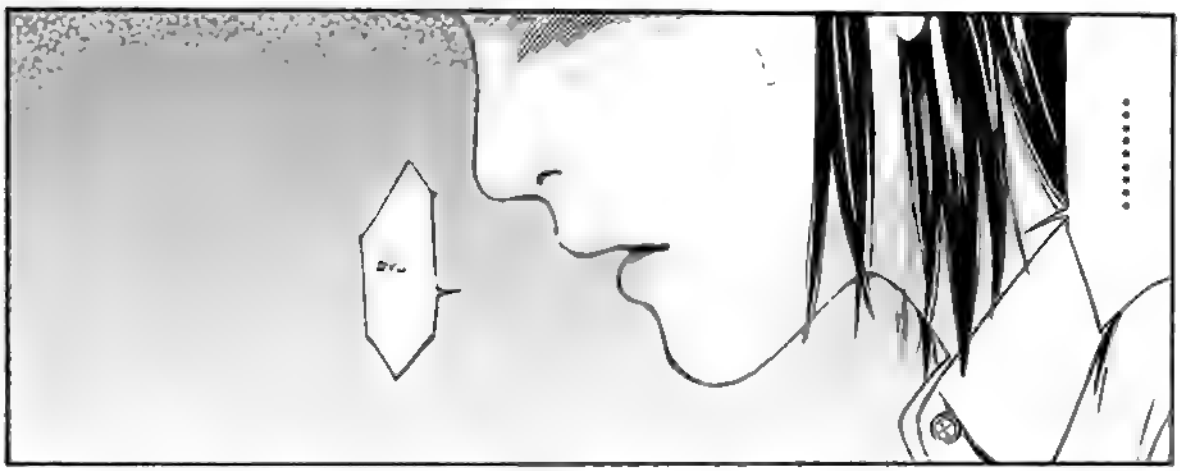

SFX: dash!

WHAT ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?
YOU'RE DIFFER-ENT...
I... I DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA HOW YOU HAVE COME TO BE IN THIS CONDI-TION RYUZA-KI-SAN. WHAT ?

KYAA!
I'M TELLING YOU, YOU CAN'T LISTEN TO WHAT I AM
I'M SORRY I HAVE TO GO
SFX: shout
MY WOUND IS OKAY NOW
I HAVE SOMETHING I MUST DO ALONE
SFX: AKIHIRA

WHO IS "TAT-CHAN"?

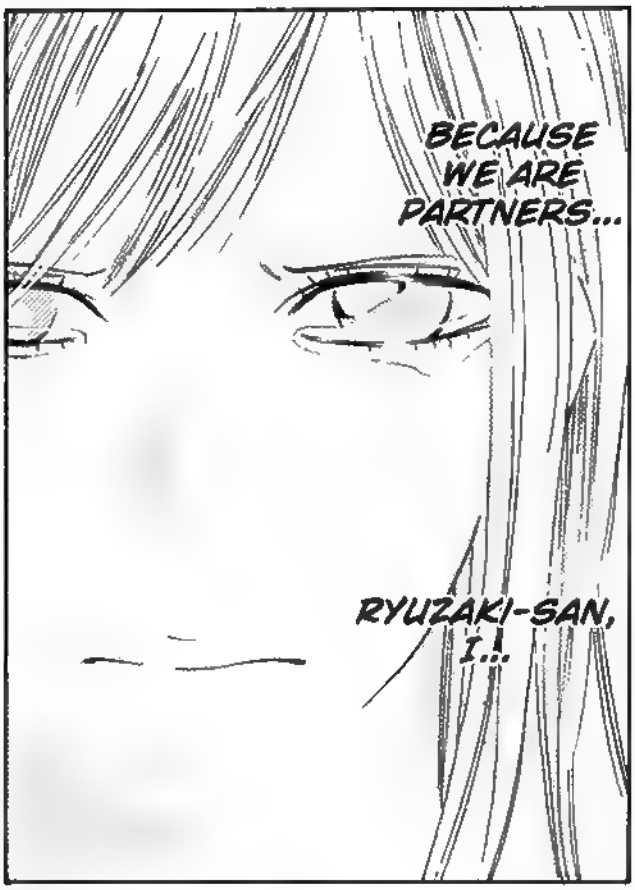
THERE WAS A MAN SPEAKING IN YOUR MOBILE PHONE EARLIER, RYU-ZAKI-SAN.
WHO IS THAT MAN?
COULD IT BE THAT HE IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED TO YOUR BEING WOUNDED
HI!!!
THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, HIBINO-SAN.


.....

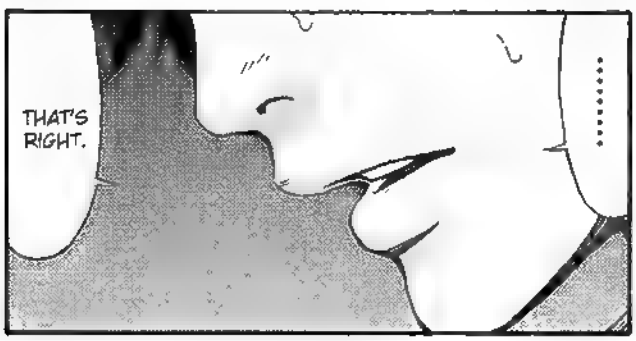
NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!? WHAT IS THAT?!
YOU THINK I AM JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU AS I WOULD ABOUT ANY PERSON?!

RYUZAKI IKUO!!

PARTNERS?!
AREN'T WE...


BECAUSE WE ARE PARTNERS...
RYUZAKI-SAN, I...

UP UNTIL NOW, WE HAVE STRUGGLED TOGETHER...
WE HAVE FACED DANGEROUS AND CRAZY SITUATIONS, MANY TIMES... AND YET,
WE HAVE OVERCOME ALL ADVERSITY AS PARTNERS, HAVEN'T WE!


THAT'S RIGHT.
.....

WE HAVE PARTNERED UP ONLY TO SOLVE CRIMES TOGETHER...

THAT,

AND *THAT ALONE* IS THE EXTENT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP.

ouroboros

ouroboros

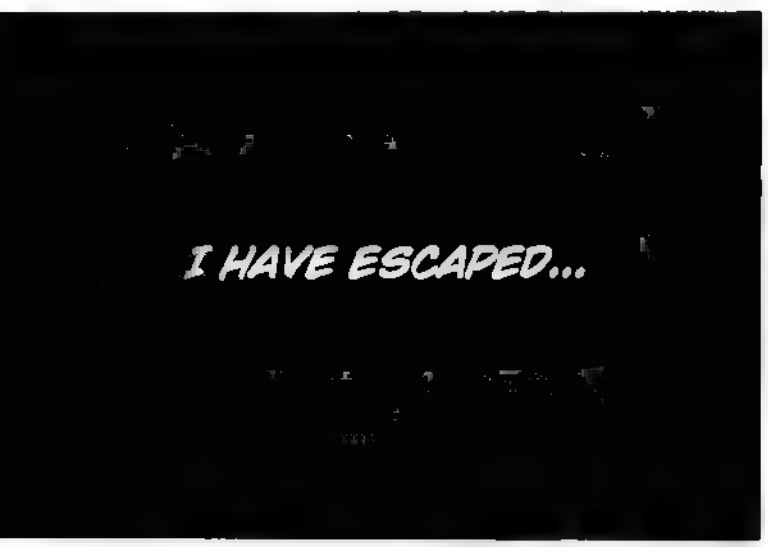
ouroboros

ouroboros

ouroboros

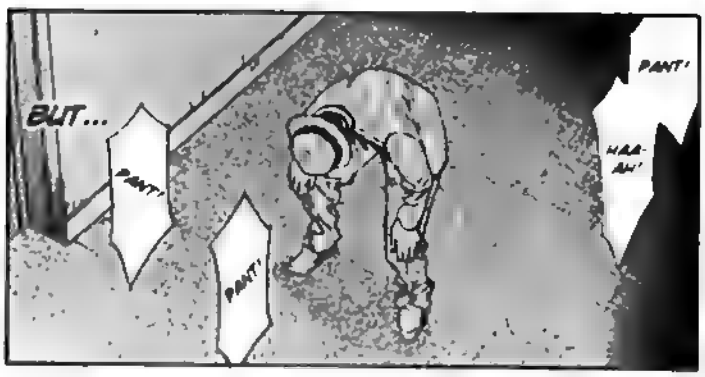
ouroboros

SFX. running



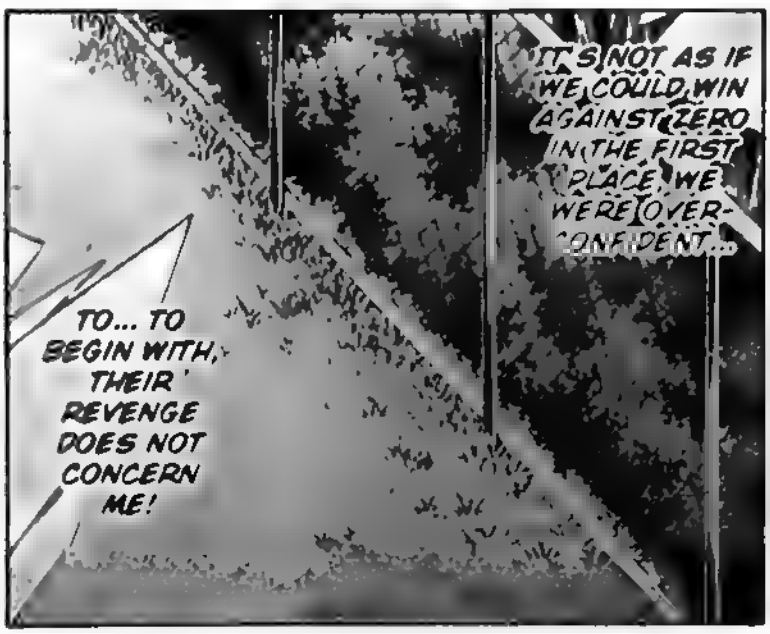
SFX: oooh

I FREAKED OUT AND RAN AWAY, TO SAY NOTHING OF TAKING REVENGE FOR MY DAD...
EVEN THOUGH DANNO IS FIGHTING FOR THE SAKE OF AVENGING A PERSON WHO WAS LIKE FAMILY TO HIM.



TL/N: If I'm not wrong, the original really was "Kashiwagi" instead of "Kashiwaba." Maybe it's a silly attempt on the author's part to put some humor amid the tension by having Hayato misremember her name.

I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE KILLED!!
I... REALLY... REALLY...

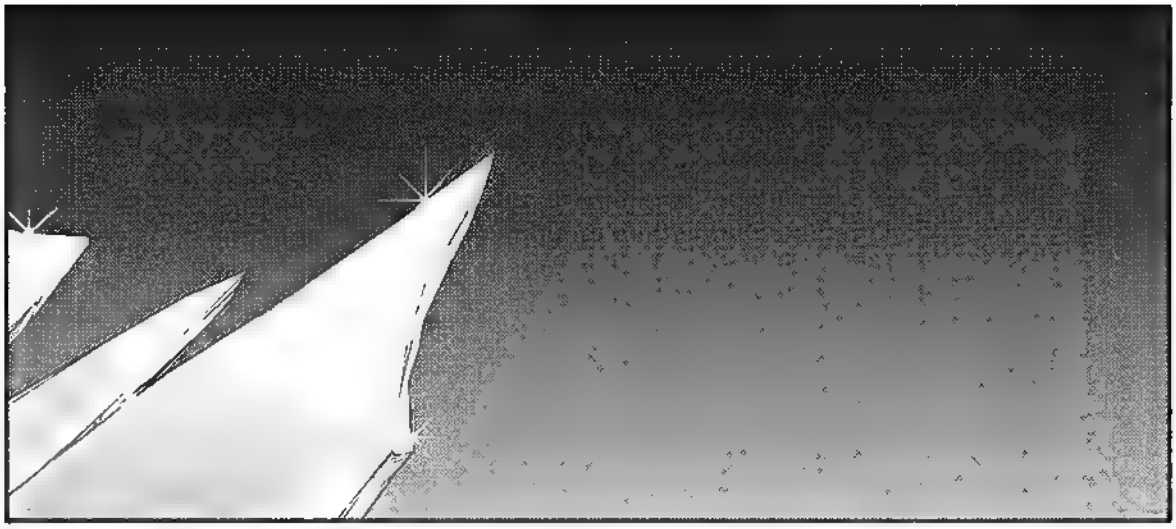

TO... TO BEGIN WITH, THEIR REVENGE DOES NOT CONCERN ME!
IT'S NOT AS IF WE COULD WIN AGAINST ZERO IN THE FIRST PLACE. WE WERE OVER-CONFIDENT...

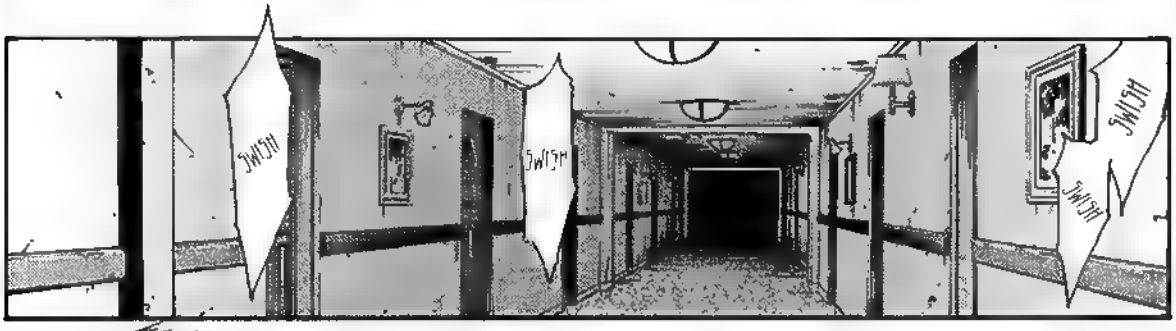
IT'S HORRIBLE, BUT I...
HAVE GAINED AN OPPORTUNITY TO ESCAPE THIS PLACE!

SAVE ME...
WHY DID THOSE TWO...

WHY?
... AND YET...

鬼
第10話
CHAPTER 79: DEVIL





TS/N. Swish... Wattaminnit, is this retard making "swish" sounds as he swings? What is he, 7?

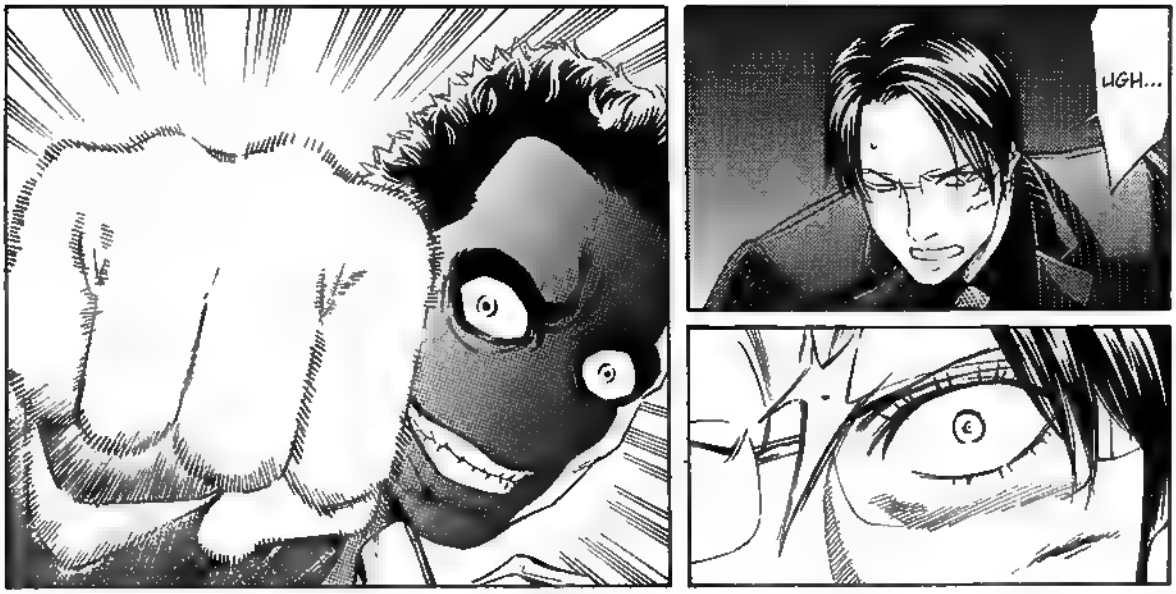
THIS GAIJIN FELLA IS A BOXER?

SFX: whew!

!!

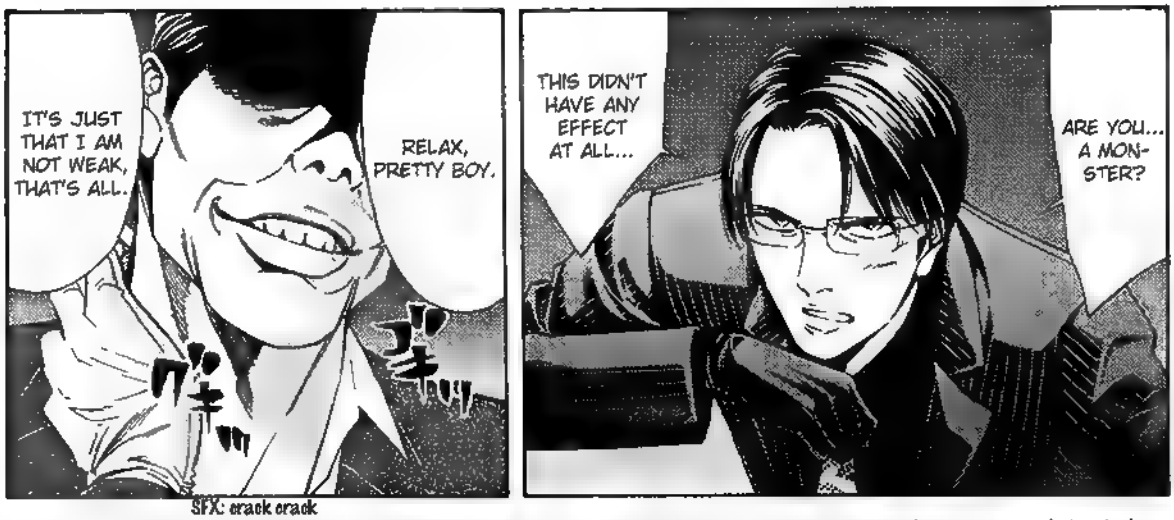
SFX: kick!

FUCKER!!
... YOU LITTLE
SFX: grab!
SFX: toss
!!
SFX: crash!


UGH...

SFX: crackl

SFX. wobble wobble



SFX: crack crack

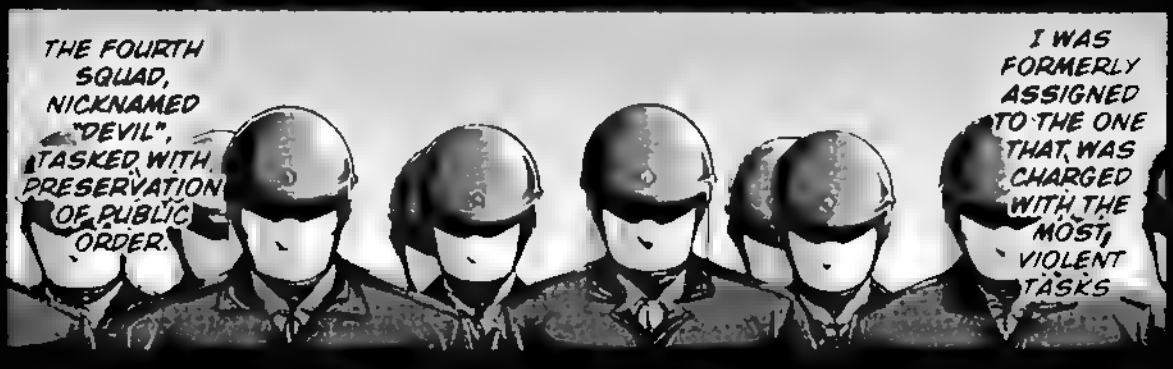
TL/N: "Ace" doesn't sound right for a man who was distinguished for his brute force. The original word, toppu, literally "top", applies to anyone who is regarded as the best in the team.

EACH SQUAD PERFORMS SPECIFIC TASKS AND RECEIVES A DIFFERENT NICKNAME.

- First Riot Squad (Imperial Guards)
- Second Riot Squad (Kappa)
- Third Riot Squad (Pride)
- Fourth Riot Squad (Devils)
- Fifth Riot Squad (Scholars)
- Sixth Riot Squad (Tide)
- Seventh Riot Squad (Lion Cubs)
- Eighth Riot Squad (Endurance)
- Ninth Riot Squad (Eaglets)
- Special Motorised Regiment (Experts)

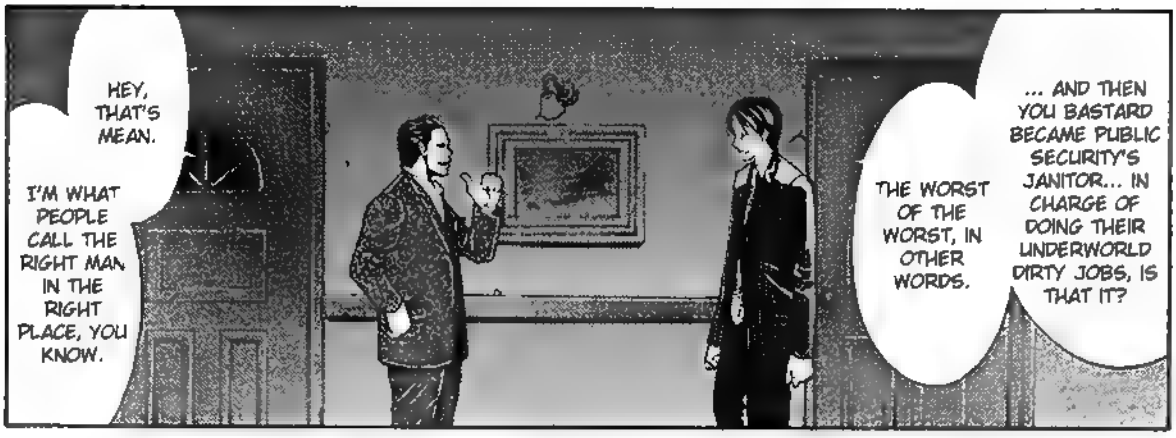
THERE IS A TOTAL OF TEN RIOT SQUADS IN THE MPD

TL/N: Actually, the kanji for the scholars was for the verb "to study"


THE FOURTH SQUAD, NICKNAMED "DEVIL", TASKED WITH PRESERVATION OF PUBLIC ORDER.
I WAS FORMERLY ASSIGNED TO THE ONE THAT WAS CHARGED WITH THE MOST VIOLENT TASKS

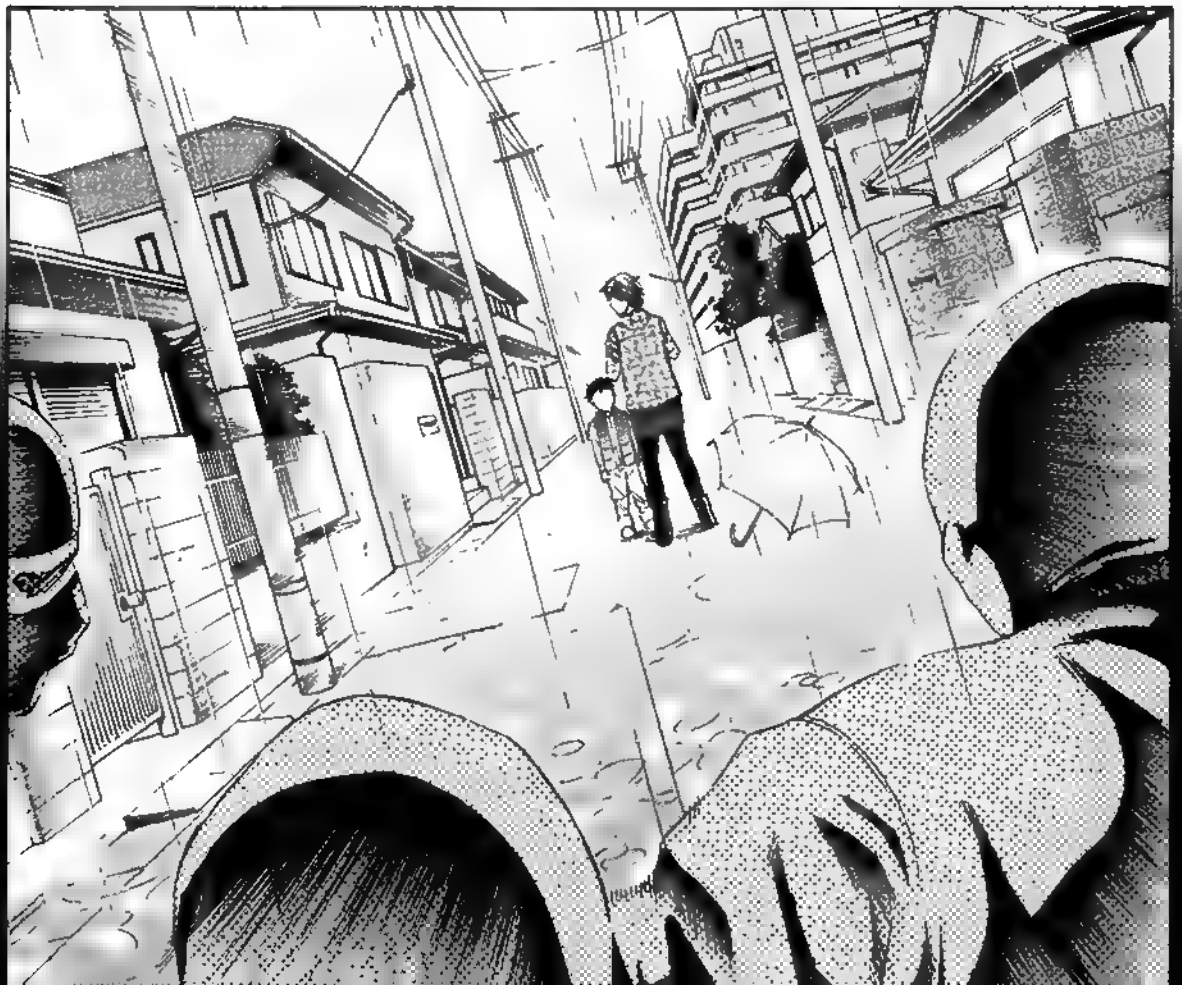
ONCE, THERE WAS THIS NOVICE, A GANGLY NEOPHYTE, REALLY...
I BEAT HIM TOO HARD AND ENDED UP KILLING HIM.
AH, WELL, WHEN THERE ARE TOO MANY HOT-BLOODED FELLAS LIKE ME IN THE SAME PLACE, ONE CANNOT HELP IT IF SOME END UP WITH A SWOLLEN EYE, RIGHT?
EVEN AMONG THEM, I STOOD OUT FOR MY PRACTICAL SKILL AND ACHIEVEMENTS, BUT I WASN'T THE BEST TEAM PLAYER THERE.

IT WAS THEN THAT I WAS SCOUTED BY "ZERO".
GANAHA-KUN.
THE TOP BRASS WANTED TO DEMOTE ME, WHO HAD BECOME A LIABILITY, BEFORE NEWS OF THE INCIDENT REACHED THE MASS MEDIA
OR COME WORK TOGETHER WITH ME?
SO CHOOSE. WOULD YOU RATHER BE BANISHED TO A SUB-ISLAND AND LEFT TO ROT THERE,
I WAS PICKED BY TEAM LEADER OSHITARI.
IN OUR DUTY, THERE IS NO NEED FOR SUPERFLUOUS THINGS LIKE WORLDLY THOUGHTS OR SELFISH DESIRE
YOU HAVE NO DESIRE FOR STATUS, PRESTIGE OR MONEY... SO, IF THE ONLY THING
WE OFFER YOU IS VIOLENCE. HOW ABOUT IT?

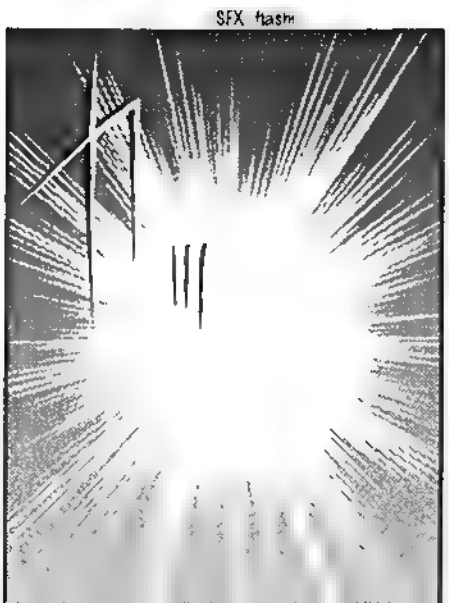

HEY, THAT'S MEAN.
I'M WHAT PEOPLE CALL THE RIGHT MAN IN THE RIGHT PLACE, YOU KNOW.
THE WORST OF THE WORST, IN OTHER WORDS.
... AND THEN YOU BASTARD BECAME PUBLIC SECURITY'S JANITOR... IN CHARGE OF DOING THEIR UNDERWORLD DIRTY JOBS, IS THAT IT?

YOU KIDS KNOW VEEERY WELL. IT WAS THAT DAY!
AND BECAUSE I AM, THE FIRST JOB I TOOK

SFX: grbn...



IF IT HAD BEEN LEFT FOR ME TO DECIDE, I WOULD HAVE TORTURED THAT WOMAN TO DEATH VERY SLOWLY. BUT
SINCE I HAD BEEN ORDERED TO "MAKE A SWIFT JOB OF IT"... OH, WELL. C'EST LA VIE.
SFX: bang!

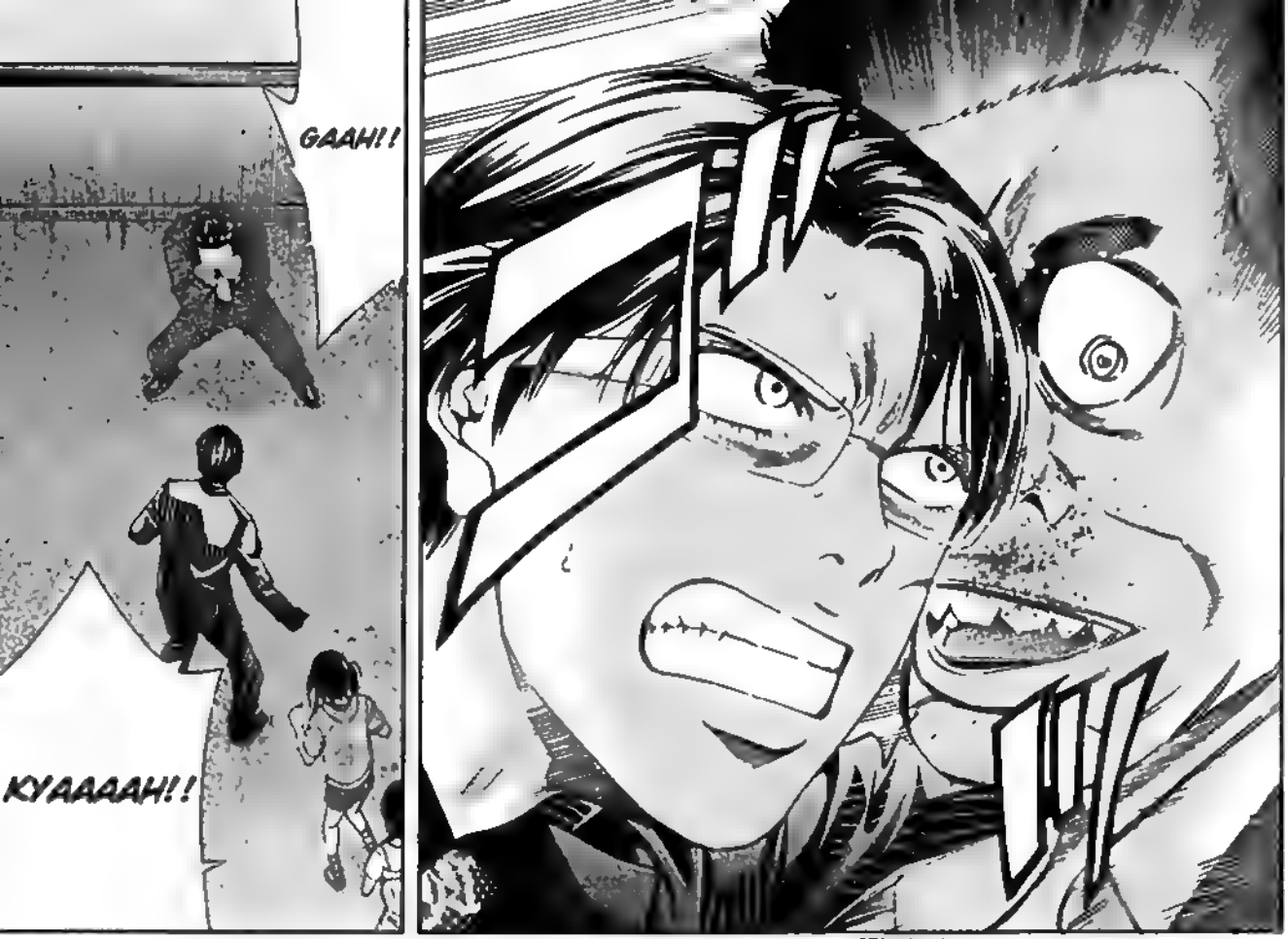

SFX. flash

SFX. rise
YOU WANNA DIE ALREADY? BORING.
WHAT?

... EH?
CUSTOM-ERS'
HEY WHAT ON
AH
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SFX: crash!
KYAH!
SFX. slap!
EH?
EH?
SFX. Swish!
AAH... HOW ANNOYING.
JUST DIE, WILL YOU?

SFX: thump
OH!?
SHIT...
SFX: crack...



SFX: whaw!

SFX: dash!

TS/N: Pause are you okay? Are you okay? Are you okay Pause?

WHAT DO I DO
CALM DOWN! IF I BURST INTO THIS HEAD-ON, I'M GOING TO GET KILLED FOR SURE
STILL, IF I JUST KEEP RUNNING AWAY I'M GETTING NOWHERE SHIT!
!
KHI
I'M NOT GOING TO DIE BEFORE I KILL GOLD WATCH!!
TOLLEY

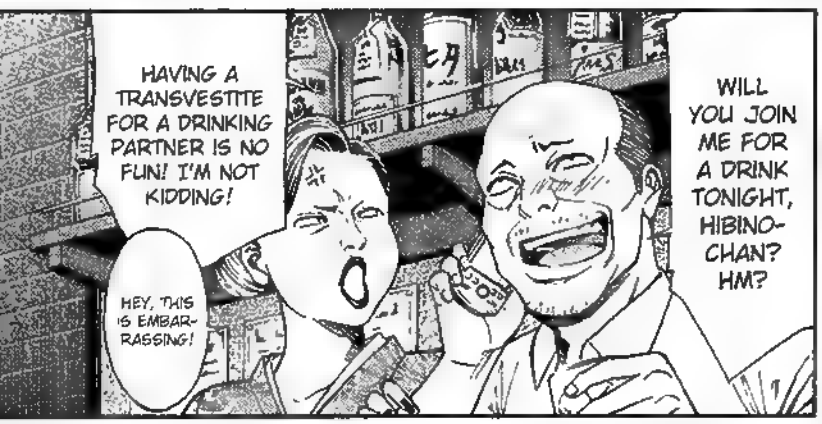
T.S/N. "I remember it like if it was last chapter..."

HEY QUICK LET'S GET GOING, BY THE EARLIEST CAN!

!
HMM...

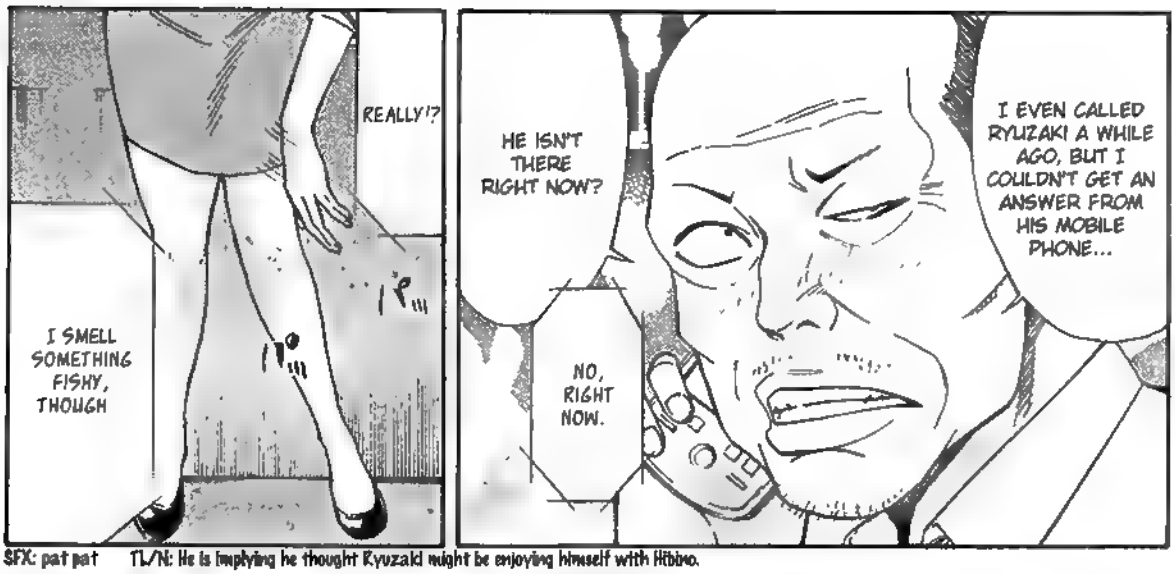
WE HAVE PARTNERED UP ONLY TO SOLVE CRIMES TOGETHER... THAT,
AND THAT ALONE IS THE EXTENT OF OUR PARTNERSHIP!

SFX: heeey!

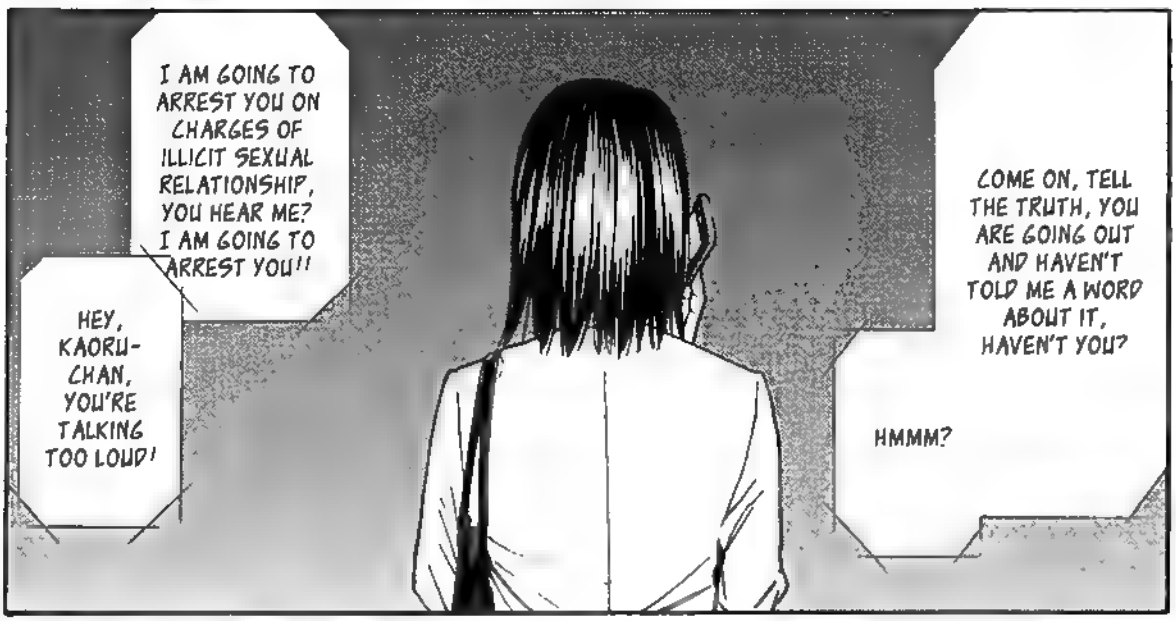

HAVING A TRANSVESTITE FOR A DRINKING PARTNER IS NO FUN! I'M NOT KIDDING!
HEY, THIS IS EMBARRASSING!
WILL YOU JOIN ME FOR A DRINK TONIGHT, HIBINO-CHAN? HM?

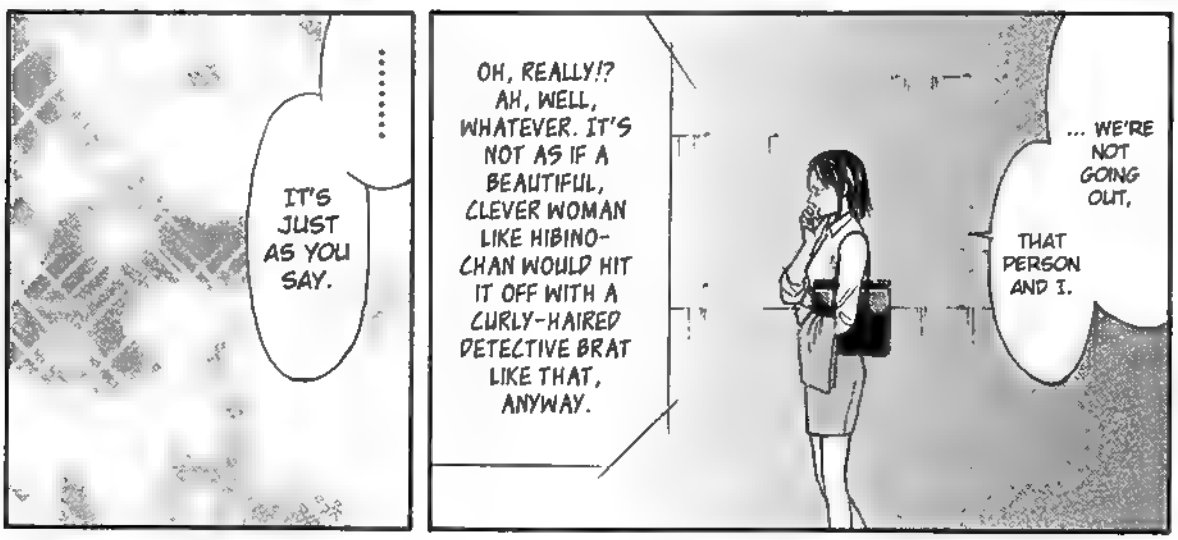
AND WHY GOLDEN, YOU MAY ASK? BECAUSE I AM DRINKING AT THE GOLDEN TOWN!
Hehehehe
HIBINO-CHAN, YOU HAVE ALREADY FINISHED YOUR WORK, RIGHT? RIGHT?

TL/N: On banner, "Shinjuku Golden Town"


REALLY!?
I SMELL SOMETHING FISHY, THOUGH
HE ISN'T THERE RIGHT NOW?
NO, RIGHT NOW.
I EVEN CALLED RYUZAKI A WHILE AGO, BUT I COULDN'T GET AN ANSWER FROM HIS MOBILE PHONE...

SFX: pat pat TL/N: He is implying he thought Ryuzaki might be enjoying himself with Hibino.


I AM GOING TO ARREST YOU ON CHARGES OF ILLICIT SEXUAL RELATIONSHIP, YOU HEAR ME? I AM GOING TO ARREST YOU!!
HEY, KAORU-CHAN, YOU'RE TALKING TOO LOUD!
COME ON, TELL THE TRUTH, YOU ARE GOING OUT AND HAVEN'T TOLD ME A WORD ABOUT IT, HAVEN'T YOU?
HMMM?


IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY.
OH, REALLY!? AH, WELL, WHATEVER. IT'S NOT AS IF A BEAUTIFUL, CLEVER WOMAN LIKE HIBINO-CHAN WOULD HIT IT OFF WITH A CURLY-HAIRED DETECTIVE BRAT LIKE THAT, ANYWAY.
... WE'RE NOT GOING OUT, THAT PERSON AND I.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I AM JUST SOME-THING
RYUZAKI-SAN USES AS HE PLEASES.

HI HIBINO-CHAN? CAN YOU SAY THAT AGAIN, I DON'T THINK I HAVE
BEEP
Huh?
.....
YOU CAN AVOID ME AND SAY COLD THINGS TO ME, BUT!
RYUZAKI-SAN... HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN I AM A DETECTIVE?
I UNDERSTAND IT IMMEDIATELY JUST BY LOOKING AT THEM IN THE EYES!
WHEN A CRIMINAL IS FIBBING,

I DON'T CARE
BFX dash
AW

AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, RYUZAKI-SAN HIMSELF IS MY BUSINESS!!
SFX. running
UGH... MY SIDES ARE ACHING ...
IT'S SETTLED... IF I SURVIVE AND GO BACK HOME, I'LL ENTER A GYM AND DISCIPLINE MY BODY!!
SFX. rush!
!!
ARE YOU DONE RUNNING?

SFX: stowup!
!
UGH!
SFX: klak!
SFX. crack!
!!

SFX: huh!
SFX: swish!
!
SHI-
SFX. punch!
SFX. screech...
UGH!

ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO GET REVENGE? HEY.
YOU HAVE BEEN RUNNING AROUND RESTLESSLY...
WHAT WAS IT AGAIN. DAMN, WHAT WAS IT
.....?
AH! I REMEMBER IT NOW!
BEFORE I KILL YOU, THERE'S ONE PIECE OF INFORMATION I HAVE TO EXTRACT FROM YOU!
SFX ping
AH.
THAT'S RIGHT!

DO YOU HAVE IT WITH YOU?
THE OUROBOROS!
HAND IT OVER RIGHT NOW.
GET IT?
WHAT... IS THIS FELLOW TALKING ABOUT...?
!?

.....
THERE IS NOWHERE TO RUN TO... AND NOTHING MORE YOU CAN DO, RIGHT? HEHE
IF YOU TELL ME WHERE IT IS HIDDEN, I'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE.
... HUH?
AND THAT IS... BECAUSE YOU ARE "ZERO", RIGHT?
NOTHING MORE I CAN DO... YOU SAY?
!
I KNEW IT... AS OF LATE, I HAVE HEARD YOU FROM PUBLIC SAFETY HAVE HAD QUITE A LOT OF FREE TIME.
SFX grin
THERE ARE THOSE WITHIN IT THAT HAVE BEEN THE OBJECT OF RIDICULE.
ESPECIALLY YOU FROM "ZERO".
GIVEN THAT THE IRONCLAD RULE OF PUBLIC SAFETY IS SECRECY, YOU MUST BE QUITE IMPATIENT TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, FOR EVERY-ONE TO SEE
SO THAT'S WHAT THIS IS ABOUT.

IT SEEMS YOU HAVE LIVED AS YOU PLEASED SO FAR, WITH ONLY YOUR FISTS AND VIOLENCE TO GO BY.
HE HAS PUT A LEASH AROUND YOUR NECK AND TAUGHT YOU SOME MANNERS.
BESIDES, CAN YOU JUST GO BACK AND SAY "HAYATO MANAGED TO ESCAPE"? I'M SURE SOMEONE WILL GET MAD, RIGHT?
YOUR BOSS, "GOLD WATCH", THAT IS.

A DEVIL? WHOM DO YOU THINK YOU ARE KIDDING?

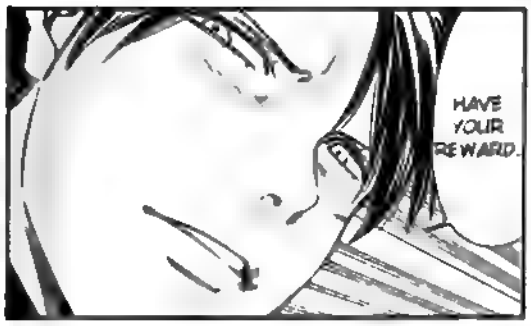
SFX: step step step

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU HAVE HIDDEN THE OUROBO-ROS.
I CAN THINK ABOUT THAT AFTER-WARDS... MORE IM-PORTANTLY, RIGHT NOW MY FIRST PRIORITY

SFX: swish!

THAT'S RIGHT.
I'M WAITING FOR YOU, WOOF WOOF!

SFX: stomp!


HAVE YOUR REWARD.

SFX: grip!
WHOA!?

BEEP

SFX. tumble!

SFX. twang!

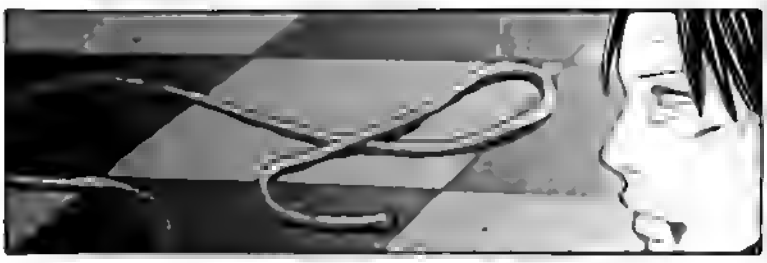
SFX. drop!

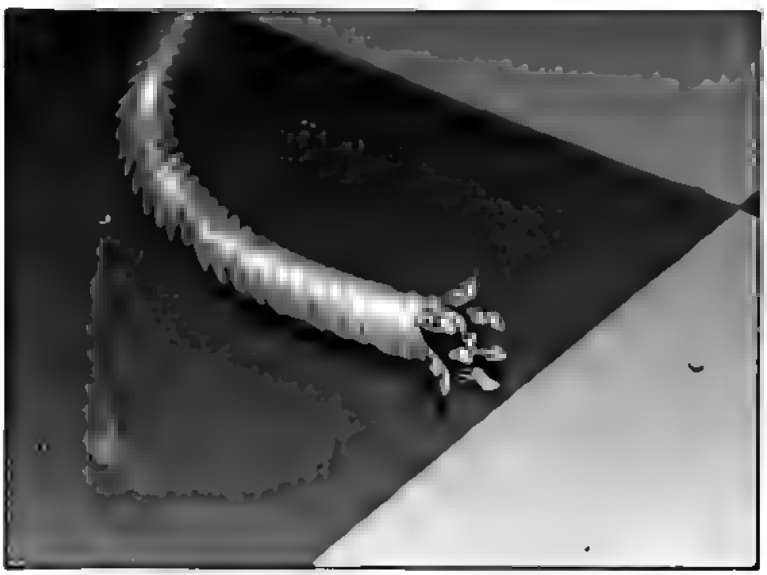
THE ONE THAT RESPONDS TO THE INFRARED SENSOR AND OPERATES BY FALLING AND STOPPING MID-AIR...
WHAT THE FUCK IS THIS PLACE!!
!!...
THAT'S... THE CHAN-DELIER THAT FELL EARLIER...

EH?

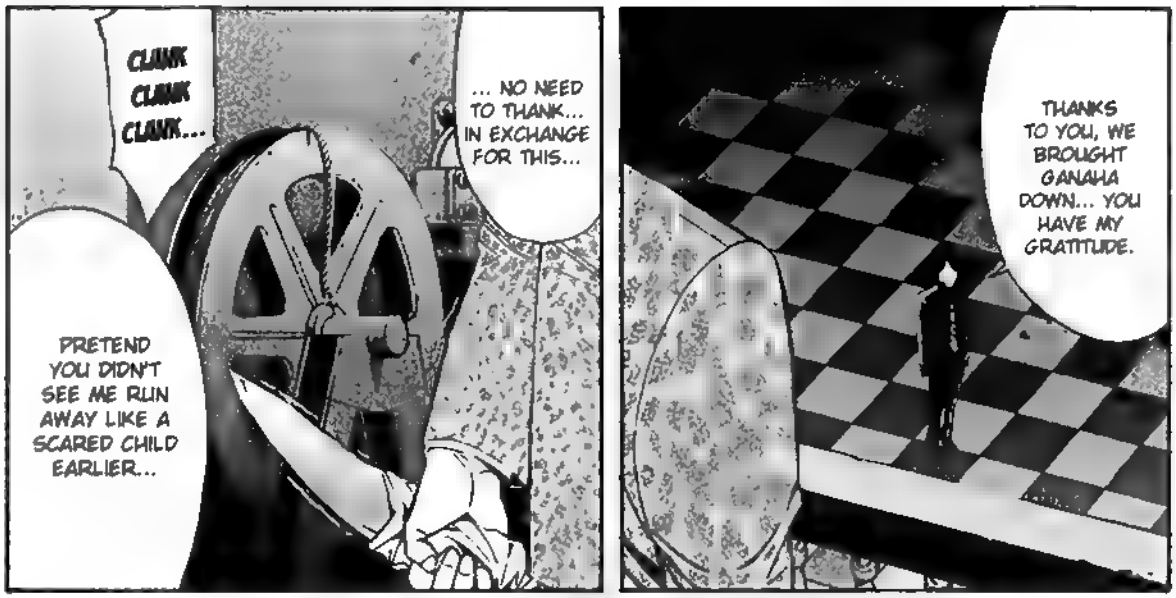
SFX: crash!

WHAT
THE... IS...
SHE?...
...WHA...





CRUSH!


CLANK CLANK CLANK...
... NO NEED TO THANK... IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS...
PRETEND YOU DIDN'T SEE ME RUN AWAY LIKE A SCARED CHILD EARLIER...
THANKS TO YOU, WE BROUGHT GANAHA DOWN... YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE.

SFX. trewble, trewble trewble

SFX. plop!

TS/N: If you have to crap your pants and make an unlikely partnership every time you beat someone from Zero, there's no way your wardrobe, wallet nor street cred will survive either

ouroboros

Next issue will be ———

Comic Art
Kanzaki Yuya

Assistant Regular&Help
Katou Toshiaki

Fujita Rikiya

Iwaya Akira

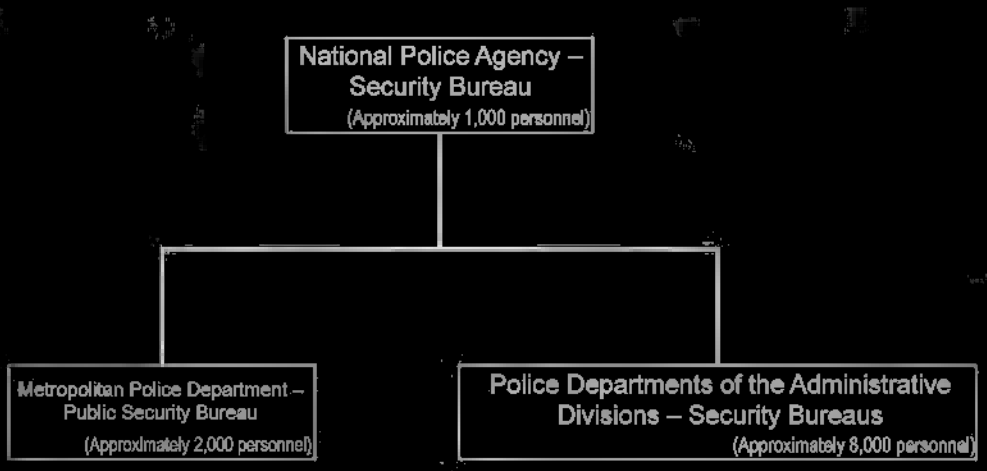
Inoue Minako

Miura Masahiro

Ikeda Tetsuya

Public Safety

Within the Japanese Police, Public Safety Police refers to the organisations that carry out reconnaissance and investigations involving the Communist Party, right-wing groups, extreme-left violent organisations, international terrorism and foreign affairs in general. They mainly deal with matters that threaten the public order and the structure of the state, or connected to situations that may conceivably do so.
What is popularly called "Public Safety Police" officially consists of the Foreign Affairs and Public Safety divisions of the Security Bureau. Due to their technique of approaching suspects via information collection, they are also called "Information Police". While these divisions exist within the same Police System, as far as the subjects of their activities and investigation methods are concerned, they are markedly distinct from the "investigative police".


National Police Agency – Security Bureau
(Approximately 1,000 personnel)
Metropolitan Police Department – Public Security Bureau
(Approximately 2,000 personnel)
Police Departments of the Administrative Divisions – Security Bureaus
(Approximately 8,000 personnel)

Furthermore, the Public Safety Police has evolved a peculiar, centralised command structure relative to the rest of the Police System. With the NPA's Security Bureau at its centre, the Public Security Bureau of the MPD and the Security Bureaus of local police departments are all under its direct command and control.

Secret Units

Within the Public Safety Police divisions all over the country, there are rumoured to be so-called "fourth divisions", which are secret units not registered in their parent agency's organisational charts. Fourth divisions are said to conduct investigations using illegal procedures such as wiretapping and espionage. The NPA's Security Bureau manages those secret units and provides planning and directives to the fourth divisions in the local police departments.

Secret Units codenames – Overview

Sakura (Public Safety – First Division)

On the momentum created by the Bloody May Day of 1952 (note 1), the increase in the activities of the Communist Party was used as pretext for the establishment of this unit within the Public Safety Police.
Because its activities were headquartered in the "Sakura Dormitory" of the Police Academy in Tōkyō-Nagano, it was designated "Sakura".

Chiyoda (Security Planning Division)

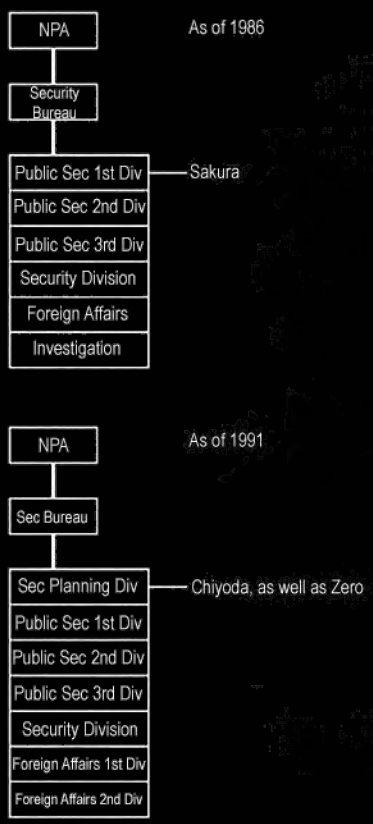
Since the 1986 Domestic Wiretapping Case of the leadership of the Japanese Communist Party (note 2), the illegal surveillance of organisations by the Public Safety Police has come to light. As a consequence of that case, the "Sakura" headquarters located in the Police Academy in Nagano were disbanded. Afterwards, in 1991, as part of the organisational changes in the NPA, the headquarters moved to Kasumigaseki, the Division was reconstituted and became known as "Chiyoda".

TL/N: That's because the name "Kasumigaseki" is used as a metonym for the Japanese bureaucracy as a whole and it is located in the Chiyoda district.

Zero (Security Planning Division)

Because the word "Chiyoda" as a secret jargon ended up being widely known in society, it was replaced by "Zero" around the year 2000. It is rumoured that the name originates in the reasoning: "since this organisation does not exist, thus there is 'zero'" or "starting point, 'zero'"; however, even now it is often referred to as "Chiyoda".

Location of secret divisions under the NPA umbrella



Note 1: an incident that happened on May 1, 1952, when demonstrators and police troops clashed in the Outer Gardens of the Imperial Palace Complex, and the disturbances that followed. They were orchestrated as part of a plan for a violent revolution planned by a left-wing organisation.
Note 2: on November 27, 1986, it was revealed that the domestic landlines of the leadership of the Communist Party had been subjected to wiretapping by the police. The existence of the Public Safety Police became widely known.

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電子書籍化に際し、仕様上の都合により適宜編集を加えた。

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